

Operation Lifeline Sudan resumes

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations is preparing to resume large-scale famine relief operations in southern Sudan after getting the go-ahead from Khartoum and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), U.N. officials said Monday. The green light came Friday when rebels lifted objections to a resumption of relief flights to the war-torn region. It did so after receiving guarantees that food deliveries to the rebel side would be based on the result of a new U.N. survey. The SPLA had earlier protested at U.N. plans to allocate only 16,000 tonnes of the 104,000 tonnes of food to be distributed this year in rebel-held areas. The military government in Khartoum banned relief flights to the south Nov. 3 to launch a bombing campaign against rebel-held towns in the region, but two weeks ago it said the relief flights could resume. U.N. spokesman Carlton James said the first U.N. plane to fly in to rebel-held areas of southern Sudan would probably leave Lodwick in northwestern Kenya for Bahr, a town on the River Nile, Tuesday.

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PLO welcomes Thatcher remarks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) welcomed reports Monday that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories was illegal. Thatcher was quoted as saying in an interview with two Kuwaiti newspapers that settling Soviet Jews in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem was illegal and would complicate peace (see page 2). Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in a written statement: "We positively appreciate what the British prime minister said." Abu Sharif called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to speed up withdrawal from the territories.

Ceausescu's brother denies charges

BUCHAREST (R) — The younger brother of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu appeared before a military court Monday and denied that he murdered seven people during last December's revolution. "I do not admit that I have shot anyone dead," Lieutenant-General Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu told a three-man military court. The trial of Ceausescu — who closely resembles his brother — was the first of a member of the former ruling clan since the Stalinist president and his wife Elena were tried and executed last December 25. He denied all the main charges against him — "aggravated murder," attempted murder and "investigating unfilled genocide" by ordering secret police cadets under his command to fire on protesters.

Chad says Libyan forces attacking its positions

CAIRO (R) — Chad's ambassador to Egypt accused Libya Monday of attacking Chadian positions from Sudanese territory in violation of a truce. Abdul Kader Adom told Egypt's national news agency that an envoy would arrive in Cairo next week to deliver a message from Chadian leader Hissene Habre to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). He said the message would deal with the Chadian-Libyan conflict, but he did not identify the envoy. "The ceasefire is being consistently violated with (Libyan) attacks launched from Sudan's Darfur region," Adom said.

Arab, African refugees halt hunger strike

WARSAW (R) — Fifteen Arab and African refugees, stranded in Poland when Sweden refused them entry, have called off a hunger strike after meeting U.N. representatives, a local official said Monday. The protesters were among hundreds of refugees in the Baltic port of Swinoujscie deported from Sweden last week. The official said the 15 ended a five-day fast in a Swinoujscie church on Sunday after representatives from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told them none would be sent back to countries where their lives would be in danger. Some 45 refugees went on hunger strike last Tuesday, but the other 30 had already called off their protest. The refugees include Lebanese, Iraqis, Somalis, Eritreans and Sri Lankans.

Pakistan to seek \$3.57b in foreign aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan will seek \$3.57 billion in foreign aid in the 1990/91 fiscal year beginning in July when it hopes to sustain economic growth of more than five per cent, government sources said Monday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government will ask for \$3.29 billion from a World Bank consortium meeting in Paris on April 17-18 and \$282 million from other sources, they said. The amount from the consortium, if agreed, will be slightly less than the \$3.41 billion committed last year.

Saddam Hussein says Iraqi chemical weapons are capable of destroying half of Israel

Iraq threatens massive retaliation if Israel attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein threatened Monday to incinerate half of Israel with advanced chemical weapons if it joined what he called a big power conspiracy against Iraq.

"I swear to God we will let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq," he said in his first major reaction to charges that Iraq had tried to obtain triggers for nuclear weapons.

The charges led to calls in the U.S. and Israel for the destruction of Iraq's alleged nuclear capability.

"Do they think the \$10,500 worth of triggers were enough to produce atomic bombs?... what nonsense?... we don't need an atomic bomb, because we have binary chemicals," Hussein told a military ceremony in Baghdad Monday.

Binary weapons have two components, each relatively harmless until they combine after launch to produce a deadly nerve agent.

Hussein criticised the West for its outcry over Iraq's execution last month of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft on spying charges.

"It seems that Bazoft was the only human being in this world, while the 17 million Iraqis are not," he said. "So... the new human rights slogan of the superpowers is: To protect spies. May God's curse fall upon the big powers."

"The big powers seem to have decided to play the game themselves and directly... and let the one who wants to try his luck, let him try," Hussein said.

He said Iraq did not intend to attack anyone but "if a wasp tries to advance towards Iraq or wage aggression against it, we will cut its tail from the back," its head from the front and leave only its middle."

"I categorically deny that we have any atomic bombs," he said at the ceremony where he awarded medals to senior military officers.

He said during the 1980-88 war with Iran, "Iraq was offered enriched uranium and even a complete atomic bomb by people who were either American, British or Zionist agents. But Iraq turned down these offers."

"They used to come every day to tell us: Don't you want enriched uranium? To make an atomic bomb?... we used to say: Leave us alone, keep your evil away from us and take your bags with you... go away because we do not need an atomic bomb, for we have the sophisticated binary chemical weapons," he said.

"Let them hear here and now that we do possess binary chemical weapons which only the United States and Soviet Union have," Hussein said.

In a clear reference to Israel, which is believed to be the only Middle Eastern power with nuclear weapons, Hussein stressed: "Those who are threatening us with nuclear bombs: We warn them that we will hit them with this binary chemical weapon."



Saddam Hussein

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry also said Monday that Iraq was not seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

The Iraqis stressed that they have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Shortly after Hussein spoke,

the Foreign Ministry released photocopies of documents it said proved Iraq's innocent intentions and showed that a person it identified as an American agent attempted to lure it into ordering the triggers.

It said "attempts by British and American authorities to portray Iraq as a nuclear power are aimed at blackmailing and pressuring Iraq to prevent Iraq from acquiring scientific and technical know-how."

The ministry said the devices seized at London's Heathrow airport last week could be used for nuclear bombs, but said Iraq wanted them for use in a university laser system.

Hussein said that a recent barrage of criticism against Baghdad over its human rights record and its military ambitions was designed "to threaten and intimidate Iraq" as well as "pave the way for Israel to attack us."

Israel has not signed the 1968

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Israel seeks to calm tempers after Iraqi warning

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Monday it would not be intimidated by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat to use chemical weapons against the Jewish state but sought to calm tempers.

"Israel has no aggressive intentions against anyone but has sufficiently proven in the past that it is able to defend itself and will not be blackmailed by threats like that," said Avi Pazner, senior advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He told Reuters Israel did not take the Iraqi threat lightly and would act cautiously.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in a televised speech, said Baghdad had highly advanced chemical weapons and threatened to destroy half of Israel if it struck against his country.

"I swear to God we will let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq," he declared.

Israeli warplanes in 1981 destroyed an incomplete Iraqi nuclear reactor which the Israelis claimed was being built to make atomic weapons. Iraq denied the charge.

Accusations that Iraq was developing a nuclear bomb were renewed last week when British customs officials said they had thwarted an Iraqi operation to smuggle nuclear triggers from the United States.

Hussein denied that Iraq was building nuclear weapons.

Pazner declined to comment on what action Israel might take but former armed forces chief-of-staff Rafael Eitan earlier said Israel could strike again to prevent Iraq

from developing atomic weapons.

A foreign ministry statement said: "It is high time for the civilised world to act in unity and see to it that Saddam Hussein will not have the possibility to pursue his irresponsible designs."

"Israel which has always known how to defend itself will know to defend itself in the future as well."

The Iraqis have warned Israel several times in the last two years not to launch preemptive strikes against its burgeoning arms industry that Baghdad now says is capable of producing long-range missiles and rockets capable of putting satellites into space orbit.

Israel officials have said such strikes are not likely despite the development of missile technology by Iraq amid a general build-up of missile arsenals by Arab

countries and Iran.

"Iraq now has missiles and they are telling us in so many words that they will be using them if we strike," Amatzia Bar-Am, an Iraq specialist at Haifa University, told the Associated Press last week.

"I don't think Israel would be foolish enough to start this kind of cycle of violence."

Israeli military censorship prevents any publication of reports about development of chemical and nuclear weapons by the Jewish state.

However, foreign publications have long reported Israel has stockpiled such weapons. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said in its latest annual survey that Israel could possess up to 100 nuclear warheads.

Conscript missing, reported held by Israelis

AMMAN (Agencies) — An official source said Monday a conscript was missing with his personal weapon and Israel reported that his troops had captured an armed Jordanian soldier in the occupied West Bank.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, citing the official source, said a conscript serving on the front line near the Jordan Valley town of Karameh went missing Sunday afternoon with his gun.

The source did not identify the conscript.

A senior Jordanian official, quoted by the Associated Press (AP), said: "One of our newly-enlisted military conscripts has been absent from his duty on front line units in the Karameh area" eight kilometres northeast of the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Jericho.

He told the AP that the army launched a search of the area and "we could not find any trace of him."

In Israel, an army communiqué reported that Israeli soldiers captured an armed Jordanian soldier who approached an Israeli collective farm, then hid near a Palestinian village after infiltrating into the Israeli-occupied West Bank Sunday.

The communiqué said Israeli soldiers found evidence of an infiltration late Sunday and followed the trail to the collective farm what is called kibbutz Naaron, about eight kilometres from the demarcation line.

It said he then hid near the village of Auja, about three kilometres south of the kibbutz, but was arrested in a banana grove outside Auja, about eight kilometres north of Jericho.

It said the soldier was carrying an M-16 assault rifle — in addition to an ammunition belt and extra cartridges.

The Israeli army said the man surrendered without firing any shots and he was being questioned by the Israeli authorities.

On Saturday Jordanian officials said Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas fired two Soviet-made rockets at Israel from southern Jordan last Thursday. Israel refused to comment on the report.

One official said one Katyusha rocket fired from the Wadi Araba area fell into the Red Sea. The other exploded harmlessly inside Israeli-held territory.

The guerrillas escaped, but Jordanian authorities believe the Islamic Jihad group carried out the attack, Reuters reported.

Bait Al Maqdes assails U.S. Senate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic conference of Jerusalem (Bait Al Maqdes) Monday condemned a U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a cable addressed to President George Bush, the organisation said the decision constituted "a grave danger and a flagrant aggression on the Arab Nation." The resolution "contradicts the official American stand which calls for just and durable peace in the Middle East and conflicts with all U.N. resolutions on the Palestine issue which were supported by Washington," it said. The cable said that Jerusalem "represents Arab and Islamic cultural and historical heritage and the decision was an insult to the Arab and Muslim nations and is bound to cause further violence." "The cable demanded that the U.S. Congress rescind such 'dangerous decisions.' The conference also issued a statement noting that the protection of Jerusalem 'an Arab and Islamic responsibility' and called on Arab and Muslim countries to take a very firm stand with regard to the issue at the international level.

ACC states pursue oil, gas cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers of oil and mineral resources from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will meet in Amman April 23 to discuss the implementation of an agreement they signed in Amman in February on cooperation in oil and gas production and exploration.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that energy experts and technicians from the ministries of oil and mineral resources in the four ACC countries would review the terms of the agreement and work out a practical programme to be submitted with recommendations to the four ministers April 23.

Taher said that the agreement provides for cooperation and coordination among the four countries in oil and natural gas production and also in alternative energy resources, research work in oil and natural gas and joint ventures in these fields.

Cooperation is already under way among Egypt and Iraq in oil exploration and the Iraqi Ministry of Oil is helping Jordan's oil exploration operations, he said.

Minister pointed out, he said Iraq had been sending technical teams to work with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) in prospecting for oil in Jordan and had been training Jordanian technicians.

Taher said the Egyptian oil ministry would assign a technical team to Jordan by the end of April to help the NRA in its quest to find oil in the Kingdom.

Lithuania prepares reply to Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuania sent a delegation to Moscow Monday in hopes of beginning talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev on the show-down over its declaration of independence.

Vytautas Landsbergis, president of the breakaway republic, said he hoped for a peaceful settlement despite a Kremlin demand that Lithuania annul the declaration, Radio Moscow reported.

Also Monday, about 1,000 pro-independence demonstrators rallied outside the Lithuanian prosecutor's office against the occupation of the building by Soviet soldiers.

A Lithuanian-appointed prosecutor and one sent from Moscow to replace him were both working in the building Monday. Employees reported no direct

conflicts between the two.

Lithuanian officials said legislator Egidius Bickanskas went to Moscow in a bid to start talks with Soviet leaders. Three other officials, including Deputy Premier Romualdas Ozolas, were to follow.

Bickanskas has spent much of the past two weeks in Moscow trying without success to begin talks on Lithuanian independence.

Lithuanian leaders were preparing a reply to increasingly strident calls from Moscow to rescind its declaration of independence.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told parliament a reply had been drafted to two stern weekend appeals from Gorbachev, Radio Vilnius reporter Virginia Jakutiene told Reuters by telephone.

Aoun urges new plan for Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — General Michel Aoun, who rejected 1989 Arab-brokered Lebanon peace plan, has urged Arab leaders to find a new pact that would satisfy all rival parties.

Official sources said Monday Aoun, commander of half of Lebanon's 35,000-man army, has written to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria and to the Arab League about the pact.

The three states sponsored last year's peace agreement by Lebanese deputies to end 15 years of war. The accord, reached in the Saudi city of Taif, entrenched powers between the long-dominant Christian Maronite community and the Muslim majority.

But it failed to include a clear timetable for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, cited by Aoun as his main reason for rejecting it.

"I reiterate my government's readiness to fully cooperate with your committee's endeavours to achieve an understanding among the Lebanese parties and other

sides concerned with solving the Lebanese crisis," said Aoun in the letters.

"I leave it to your good offices... to choose the right frame, which could be Taif-2 or any other frame to achieve dialogue, the results of which would be comprehensive, just and practical," he said.

Thick smoke developed into mushroom-like clouds over snow covered slopes separating the Geagea and Aoun forces east of Beirut as the two sides traded rockets, howitzer and tank cannon rounds.

"The cold weather, snows and thick fog have prevented the warring factions from launching any ground attacks," said a police spokesman.

"Visibility is almost nil in the Kesrouan mountains. No one can move," the spokesman added.

Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir continued talks with neutral Christian leaders on

(Continued on page 3)

Rioting convicts defy British authorities

MANCHESTER, England (Agencies) — Rioting convicts retained control of a wing for sex offenders in one of Britain's oldest jails Monday, preventing police and warders checking reports that inmates had been battered to death there.

Officials said rioters, a hard core of whom continued to defy police and warders, had turned the inside of Strangeways jail in the northern English city of Manchester into a smouldering "bomb site."

But they were unable to confirm reports that up to 12 prisoners had been killed in violence that erupted in the overcrowded jail Sunday morning.

Guards regained control of four cell blocks injured during a 30-minute operation Monday morning, said Home Office

spokesman Charles Keseru. The Home Office, which is in charge of the prison system, said 119 inmates remained on the loose, mainly in five cell blocks of the austere, red-brick prison.

The prisoners started fires and at one point it was feared the jail would burn down, authorities said. Fires in the chapel and a gymnasium eventually were controlled by firefighters working under police protection.

"The prison is wrecked inside and will have to be virtually rebuilt," said Ivor Serie, chapter chairman at the jail of the prison officers' association. "It is like a building that has been blitzed."

Asked by reporters if the riot was against conditions in the overcrowded prison, Serie said he knew of no demands by the rioters.

De Klerk unveils tough anti-strife plan

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — President F.W. de Klerk said Monday he would send troops and police into South Africa's black townships to clamp down on political violence.

"Everyone must understand that these decisions can lead to a rise in the number of people held in detention," de Klerk told parliament.

Balancing these tough and potentially controversial moves, de Klerk announced conciliatory steps to ease power sharing talks with black nationalists, including a legal procedure to give amnesty to former anti-apartheid guerrillas.

He confirmed he would meet African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela

later this week. Mandela made a renewed call Monday for peace during a visit to Edendale, a Natal township wracked by recent fighting among rival black factions.

Mandela, deputy president of the ANC, urged his supporters and those of the rival Inkatha organisation to quit fighting and unite in the struggle against the white-led government.

"We are not fighting Inkatha," Mandela told 2,000 people crammed into a church hall. "We are fighting apartheid and the forces of oppression."

Mandela said he would meet de Klerk Thursday to discuss ways to end the violence. Mandela, who has acknowledged differences with other ANC leaders, decided

to meet de Klerk despite the ANC decision to pull out of preliminary peace talks scheduled for next week.

Police in Natal said the clashes between ANC supporters and Inkatha, a Zulu organisation, killed at least 53 people and wounded hundreds since last Tuesday. Local reporters said the death toll could reach 100.

Even before de Klerk's announcement, troop reinforcements in steel helmets and carrying automatic weapons were drafted into townships of Natal province.

De Klerk said the government had from Monday begun boosting security in Natal, sending in extra troops and police, and setting up special courts.

Settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab lands is illegal, Thatcher says

KUWAIT (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an interview published Monday, said settling Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, was illegal and will thwart Middle East peace efforts.

She backed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan envisaging an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

She said it would be "a very ironic and unjust reward for all our efforts if the freedom of Soviet Jews to emigrate were to be at the expense of the rights, the homes and the land of the people of the occupied territories."

"I hope that a new Israeli government can be formed quickly, with the courage to say 'yes' to dialogue with a genuinely representative Palestinian delegation," Thatcher told Arabic-language Al Qabas daily.

The English text of the interview was published by the English-language Kuwait Times daily.

The coalition government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir founded earlier this month over his refusal to accept U.S. peace proposals.

Middle East peace efforts have been further complicated by the expected flood of Soviet Jews to Israel following Moscow's easing of travel restrictions.

The Arabs fear that as many as 75,000 Soviet Jews will emigrate to Israel, with many settling in the occupied West Bank and

overall framework for direct negotiations between the parties."

"The cornerstone of any settlement should be Security Council Resolution 242 and exchange for land for peace," she added.

The British-drafted resolution after the 1967 Middle East war has provided the basis for all Middle East peacemaking attempts.

Responding to a question about what could be done to prevent the renewal of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, Thatcher expressed all-out support for efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

But she said both sides should show flexibility.

"This is a serious problem. There has to be a permanent settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict on the basis of the Security Council Resolution 598," she said.

"The international community can lend its full support and encouragement to all that is being done by the U.N. Secretary General to convene direct talks between the two sides."

A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire halting the 8-year Gulf war took effect on Aug. 20, 1988. But peace talks have stalled.

Thatcher noted: "If the secretary-general's efforts are to succeed, then Iran and Iraq must approach those talks with flexibility and willingness to make progress."

Ethiopians, Eritrean rebels meet in Sanaa

SANAA, North Yemen (AP) — Four Eritrean rebel groups and Ethiopian officials met Monday for North Yemeni-sponsored peace talks that officials hope will develop into an overall peace conference involving other factions to end Africa's longest war.

The meeting opened Sunday night at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry after the sunset meal with which Muslims break the day's fast in the holy month of Ramadan.

Both sides stressed their desire to end the guerrilla war with a lasting political settlement before going into closed session.

Shewadani Yalta, a member of the politburo of Ethiopia's ruling Labour Party, led a 14-member delegation from Addis Ababa.

Leaders from the four rebel factions — the Eritrean Liberation Front, the ELF-Revolutionary Council, the ELF-National Council, and the ELF-United Organisation — attended.

The Muslim-dominated groups claim to represent 50 per cent of the disparate rebel forces who have been fighting for autonomy for Ethiopia's northern Red Sea province since 1962.

But the main guerrilla faction, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), did not attend the meeting.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arranged talks between that group and Ethiopian authorities in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, last year and then in Nairobi, Kenya, early this year.

The EPLF launched a new offensive in February and recently captured the port of Massawa. Yemeni officials said Sanaa hoped to have the talks develop into an all-round peace conference where the EPLF, Sudan and all parties concerned with the conflict would be represented.

No one mentioned any basis for an agreement, although there is a United Nations resolution providing for Eritrean self-rule.

An Eritrean source, speaking on condition he was not named, said: "The main thing is to decide whether to continue negotiations or not, and then possible solutions will be laid out."

The source complained about the "insufficiency" of the Sanaa meeting and stressed that "we should have all the forces together."

He said that the ELF groups and the Yemenis tried to get the EPLF to attend the talks, but got no response.

The source said the Ethiopians complained about the lack of unity among the Eritrean factions, but noted that Addis Ababa has still been talking separately to the various groups.

The rebels who did attend the Sanaa meeting chose Saleh Othman Shater, a member of the ELF's Executive Committee, as their leader.

The Yemenis were represented by Ahmad Mohammad Al Idrisi, a former undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry who has led the Sanaa mediation effort since it was launched a year ago.

He appealed to both sides to demonstrate understanding and pursue the "dialogue to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution" to the 29-year-old war.

The Sanaa meeting is the second between the four smaller Eritrean groups and the Ethiopians. The first, mediated by Sudan, was held in Khartoum in March and April 1989.

Shater complained that the follow-up to the Khartoum meeting had been repeatedly postponed by the Ethiopians.

No love of charity after 15 years of Lebanese civil war

By Youssef Azme
Reuters

BEIRUT — Slogans hung by a Muslim charity on lamp-posts among the rubble of west Beirut streets proclaim: "Love your fellow man."

The slogans, bright and cheery in daylight, seem out of place in a city that sees little evidence of love or charity after almost 15 years of vicious civil war.

The lamp-posts are redundant. Beirut is plunged into darkness every night. It has been without electricity and water since fighting in January knocked out its main power station and cut off water supplies.

Returning after 10 years to a city that used to be the playground and intellectual capital of the Middle East was a harrowing experience.

Hardly a building has escaped the bombers and snipers. Many a handsome Italian-style villa lies in ruins. Others are disfigured by layers of protective sandbags and thick steel shutters.

Fifth is everywhere. Windows are broken, some covered with makeshift cardboard.

The streets are dotted with burnt out shells of once thriving hotels and luxury apartment buildings.

Washing hangs from gaping holes in the sides of buildings that have been hit by rockets and are now often taken over by homeless refugees.

The din of private generators installed on apartment balconies to secure a few hours of electric-

ity a day is deafening. The whole city appears to be constantly shaking.

"It's like living in a cabin next to the engine room of an ancient steam ship," one resident said. "I can't sleep."

The stench of diesel fuel is overpowering, although many say they no longer notice it.

But the biggest fear is about personal safety, despite Lebanese or Syrian checkpoints that block your way every few hundred metres, adding to the congestion of the already chaotic traffic.

Guards would have to stand every few metres in every street for Beirut to regain their sense of security.

At night, driving in the darkened streets is eerie.

Even during the day, relatives and friends start worrying that you may have come to some harm if you are five minutes late. They are often unable to check as most telephones are dead.

In one incident, a resident left his apartment on a side street as the city was emptying at dusk to visit a brother who lived a few yards away across a normally busy road.

As he stepped off the pavement, an unmarked car pulled up ahead. Two armed men in civilian clothes bundled him into the back seat as the car sped away.

"Why didn't you stop at the checkpoint," said one. There was no checkpoint. The men said they were "security," without identifying themselves any further.

They asked him to empty his pockets "in order to confirm your

identity," and were indignant when they found he had only 2,000 Lebanese pounds (\$4). They looked at his watch but quickly saw that it was not worth much.

They pushed him out in another part of town after 30 horrible minutes with a warning of "don't do it again."

He was one of the lucky ones. He returned home shaking and convinced he would not have stayed alive if he had carried anything valuable. They may not have cared to leave a witness behind.

The latest inter-Christian war that killed more than 800 people in what many see as senseless fighting among brothers and cousins appears to have finally shattered many hopes that an end to the misery may be in sight.

The rich who remain have second homes elsewhere and return when things are relatively quiet. Others who can afford it take an occasional trip abroad to relieve the strain.

Of those who have doggedly stayed behind trying to eke out a difficult existence since civil war broke out in April 1975 many would now like to emigrate.

The number wanting to leave since a major resurgence of fighting a year ago has been put at 400,000 out of a population of three million.

Beirut airport is packed with departing families — the fortunate ones who have been able to obtain visas to foreign countries increasingly closing their doors to Lebanese.

Afghan rebels told to stay out of drug business

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The United States has told Afghan guerrillas to stay out of the drug business or risk losing support for their fight against Afghanistan's Communist-led government, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

"What we have made very clear to the Mujahedeen commanders is that they must stay out of drugs and that they must discourage production of drugs," said Melvin Levitsky, an assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters.

"We cannot accept a situation where we are giving assistance to the Mujahedeen and they, on the other hand, are encouraging drug production and drug trafficking," he said at the end of a three-day visit to Pakistan.

The major Muslim rebel groups, which are based in Pakistan, have acknowledged that some of their local commanders are involved in poppy cultivation. But the leaders of those groups deny they condone opium production.

Levitsky is touring Thailand, India, Pakistan and Turkey as part of the effort by U.S. President George Bush to involve more countries in the fight against international drug trafficking.

Afghanistan produced an estimated 750 tonnes of opium in 1988, making it the world's second biggest supplier after Burma.

The decade-old war between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and the Muslim guerrillas, known as Mujahedeen, has destroyed much of Afghanistan's agrarian economy.

Amid the fighting and breakdown in law enforcement, the small centuries-old tradition of poppy cultivation has grown into a multi-million dollar industry. It has spawned what many Pakistanis call "the heroin and Kalashnikov culture."

stepping beyond their role in politics, which is to represent the interest of their own people.

Schach did not want the Haredim, who are at the periphery of Israeli society and already suspect for their non-Zionist beliefs, to invite reprisals by interfering in the choice of Israel's leader, Levy said.

"He sent his parties into politics only to take their share of the cake," he said. "He doesn't want to control the whole cake."

Disputes among the Agudat Israel party and Schach's two factions, the Degel Hatorah (Torah flag) and SHAAS (Torah Guardians), centre on competing demands for political jobs and government funds to support the parties' Yeshivas — and on theological disputes that erupted 200 years ago in Europe.

Parliament member Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party, which is not ultra-orthodox, said "the people have had enough. It's as if we've returned to the 18th century... the war of the Lithuanians and the Haredim has gone beyond any limit."

Bibi was referring to the festering dispute between the Haredim, Hebrew for "piousists," who arose in Poland, and the Mitnaggin, or "opponents," who originated in Lithuania.

Agudat Israel is a base for Hassidim, which stresses the emotional side of Judaism. Rabbi Alter of Gur is one of its leaders.

Hashemi's Lebanon visit not linked to hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — The visit to Lebanon late in March by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani's brother was not related to the issue of the 18 Western hostages held by underground Shi'ite Muslim factions, a statement said Monday.

Mahmoud Hashemi's visit to Lebanon was for "humanitarian purposes and not linked to the hostages," said a statement by Hussein Mousavi one of the Shi'ite Lebanese leaders who met Rafsanjani's brother in Lebanon.

The newspaper Ad-Diyar, based in Christian east Beirut, had reported that Hashemi met in the eastern Bekaa Valley last week with Mousavi and leaders of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God.

Rafsanjani had previously assigned his brother to sensitive missions and Ad-Diyar suggested that his visit to the Syrian-policed Bekaa Valley was related to the issue of the Western hostages, including nine Americans.

The statement by Mousavi, who heads the Islamic Amal, or Islamic hope movement, described Ad-Diyar's report as "fantasy." It did not elaborate. Islamic Amal is closely associated with Hizbollah.

The Iranian embassy has withheld comment on Hashemi's visit to Lebanon, the latest in a series by the Iranian leader since his brother took office on Aug. 3, following the death of Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last June.

Rafsanjani heads a pragmatic faction in Iran which seeks better relations with the West. He has said the foreign captives should be released.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

SLA soldier killed by mine blast

KIRYAT SHMONA (R) — A member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) was killed in a landmine blast near the Lebanese town of Beit Yachoun Monday, military sources said. The sources said at least one other member of the SLA patrol was wounded by the explosion inside Israel's self-declared "security zone," a strip of Lebanese territory north of the Israeli border. The zone is patrolled by Israeli troops and the 2,500-man SLA, which is paid and equipped by Israel to protect its northern frontier against guerrilla attacks.

Israel jails woman for spying for PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court sentenced a woman immigrant from Yugoslavia to six years imprisonment Monday for spying for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Hafia district court said Victoria David, 34, should serve three years in jail with the other three years suspended. In exchange for the dropping of more serious charges, she pleaded guilty last month to giving information to an enemy, contact with an enemy and belonging to a banned organisation. At her trial, the court was told that David was recruited by members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement in 1985 and emigrated to Israel in 1987. Prosecutors said she gathered information about Israeli Arabs and photographed strategic sites including army bases and borders, sending the pictures by boat to her family home in Yugoslavia.

Omani minister leaves for China

NICOSIA (R) — Omani Post and Telecommunications Minister Ahmad Ibn Suwaidan Al Bahushi left for China Monday on a six-day visit for talks on communications cooperation with Chinese officials, the Omani News Agency reported.

Kuwait jails woman motorist

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti woman, convicted of speeding, refusing to hand over her driver's licence and escaping from police custody has been jailed for a month in the first such reported case in the northern Gulf state. The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said Monday the woman had also been fined 50 dinars (\$170).

IPU accepts Afghanistan as member

NICOSIA (R) — The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) voted at a conference in Cyprus Monday to accept Afghanistan as a member. Jubilant members of the Afghan delegation embraced and kissed when the vote, opposed only by Pakistan, was announced. Pakistan argued that the government of President Najibullah was not the true representative of the Afghan people and urged the IPU to reject Afghanistan's application for membership. The Afghan delegation said it hoped the IPU, which now represent 114 parliaments, would use its influence to find a political solution to the war in Afghanistan.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
15:49 News summary in Arabic
15:55 Local programme
16:10 Agricultural programme
16:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:10 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ajout d'Al on Jordanie
19:20 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Chartes in Charge
21:00 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:20 In the Heart of the Night

PRAYER TIMES

05:59 Fajr
06:18 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
16:00 Maghrib
19:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Ternantia Church Tel. 622266.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assunta International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815017, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold, cloudy and rainy and snowfall is expected on high mountains. Winds will be westerly fresh. In Amman, it will be rainy and winds will be northerly fresh and seas rough.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 637123
Dr. Akram Samhan 894611
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 771020
Dr. Khalid Khatib 625478
First pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shanousi pharmacy 637660
DRUGS:
Dr. Ziad Al Bakri (—)
Al Shura' pharmacy (983238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Jihad Muntah (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 863402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 605900
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813812/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamskhal 664174
Shamskhal Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849345
Al-Muhammed Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77701/3
Al-Bakri, J. Ashrafish 775111/2
Army, Marfa 891015/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:05 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Jordan, Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Baghdad (RJ)
09:15 Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:05 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Kuwait (KU)
18:40 Moscow (SU)
18:45 Rome (AZ)
18:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:30 Beirut (ME)
18:05 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Kuwait (KU)
18:40 Moscow (SU)
18:45 Rome (AZ)
18:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:30 Beirut (ME)
18:05 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Kuwait (KU)
18:40 Moscow (SU)
18:45 Rome (AZ)
18:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:30 Beirut (ME)
18:05 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Kuwait (KU)
18:40 Moscow (SU)
18:45 Rome (AZ)
18:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:30 Beirut (ME)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple 480 / 440
Banana 450 / 400
Bitter melon 400 / 350
Beans 420 / 350
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrot 220 / 170
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 250 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 420 / 380
Dates 450 / 400
Garlic 700 / 600
Grapefruit 240 / 200
Lemon 300 / 250
Lettuce (per case) 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 250 / 150
Marrow (small) 200 / 120
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Onion (green) 200 / 160
Orange 330 / 280
Orange (Shamouti) 380 / 320
Pepper (hot) 1200 / 1000
Pepper (sweet) 550 / 500
Potato 150 / 100
Sage 400 / 350
Spinach 170 / 120
Tomatoes 320 / 280

ACC nationals exempt from travel tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nationals from Jordan's partner countries in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen in addition to Jordan will be exempted from paying departure taxes and other fees upon leaving the Kingdom, according to an announcement by the Council of Ministers Monday.

The announcement said that this measure would be adopted only if reciprocated by the other ACC members.

Also Monday a Royal Decree was issued endorsing the 11 agreements concluded by the ACC states last February in Amman, dealing with cooperation in scientific, municipal affairs, health, meteorology, air and land transport and religious affairs.

One of the agreements, on health affairs, urged the four states to launch cooperation in medical services and in the production of pharmaceuticals to attain medicine, vaccines and medical appliances self-sufficiency.

The agreement encouraged the four states to exchange expertise, experiments and publications as well as visits by experts and scientists.

The four countries pledged to launch cooperation in combating contagious diseases, to exchange information and to organise conferences and seminars to deal with matters related to combating diseases.

The agreement called on health ministers from the ACC member states to hold annual meetings.

Civil service panel plans symposium on improving bureaucracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) will organise a three-day national symposium to pave the ground for the implementation of a public administration development programme to promote the work of government institutions.

The announcement was made at a meeting held at the CSC by the commission's council chaired by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

The council heard a review by the CSC Director Mohammad Abu Nowar about the CSC executive committee's activities and the preliminary steps taken in the course of implementing the four-year development programme.

Abu Nowar said that the 1990-1993 programme will be carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which had pledged to provide \$750,000 to finance the training courses within this programme.

According to an earlier statement the CSC said that the programme was designed to overhaul

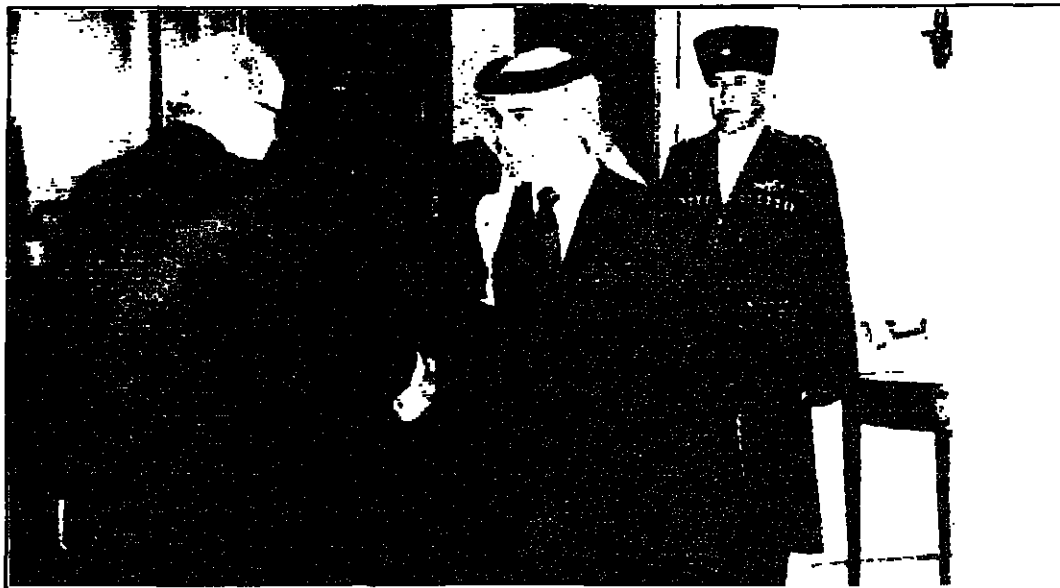
the civil services system in Jordan in line with directives from His Majesty King Hussein.

The programme envisages simplifying procedures at government departments, reducing to a minimum the level of routine work required and preparing training programmes for civil servants.

The government will provide \$430,000 worth of in-kind assistance and facilities in the course of implementing the plan which will also involve the efforts of the Institute of Public Administration.

The CSC is a government department in charge of processing applications for work in government departments and arranging for filling vacant posts.

The CSC's council groups ministers of planning, finance, education and higher education as well as the CSC director, the managing director of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company, the legal advisor at the Prime Ministry and the director of the Institute of Public Administration.



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosted an iftar at Basman Palace. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Madad Badran (photo above), Cabinet members, the speaker and members of the Upper House of Parliament, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zaid as well as Muslim scholars and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan (Petra photo)

Rains bring sunshine

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cold front which affected Jordan over the past three days bringing in heavy rain and light snow in the high regions is expected to phase out Tuesday.

A spokesman of the Department of Meteorology said that more rain was expected Monday night and Tuesday morning but sunshine will gradually prevail.

The rains, accompanying the front from central Europe, drenched the whole country giving rise to further optimism for a better harvest.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said that the rains would mostly benefit field crops, pastures and fruit trees in the high regions and the Jordan Valley alike.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) said that the rains reduced the valley farmers' dependence on irrigation water from the dams.

JVA expects the recent rains to help replenish the Kingdom's dams.

According to the Department of Meteorology, Amman and several high regions in the south and north received light snow in addition to heavy rainfall over the past three days.

It said that Karak, one of three governorates hit hard by this season's drought, had received more than 60 millimetres of rain by Monday morning.

Embassy staff recall to save JD 576,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government plan to cut public spending is expected to save about JD 576,000 to the treasury, according to sources at the Foreign Ministry.

The plan, announced yesterday, entails the recall of 48 non-diplomatic officials attached to Jordan's embassies abroad.

A spokesman said that each of these officials dispatched by ministries of education, higher education, labour, information, health and industry and trade used to earn JD 1,000 a month in salary.

"One of these officials is a correspondent for the official Jordan News Agency, Petra," the sources said.

He said the main aim is to cut down on government spending in line with the government's pledge to the Lower House of Parliament.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Mutassem Bilbeisi was quoted by the Associated Press news agency as saying that the

move was designed to contribute to cutting a budget deficit of \$299.5 million this year.

Bilbeisi and other Foreign Ministry officials said that the action of recalling officials was effective immediately and all non-diplomats should return to Jordan before the end of June.

But, he added, the decision would not affect embassy staff working in Arab states.

The Ministry of Labour was the first institution to implement the government's directives to recall all Jordanian counsellors and attaches working at Jordanian embassies.

Minister of Labour Qasem Obeidat told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he had issued a decision cancelling the posts of labour attaches affiliated to the ministry. Four labour attaches are working for the ministry in the Jordanian embassies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The decision takes effect as of July 1.

U.S. navy ship ends port call

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. navy ship USS Simpson today ends a port call to Aqaba, having arrived there March 29.

"Ships of the U.S. Navy's Middle East force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their programme visits to friendly states in the region," a spokesman for the U.S. embassy here said.

"Past visits to Aqaba have been very much enjoyed by the

ship's person el," the spokesman added.

While in Aqaba, officers of the ship visited military and civilian officials and participated in social events with local residents.

The ship's crew also participated in sporting events with Jordanian soldiers and visited the Nabatean city of Petra.

The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Queen condole Kuwaiti leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Monday sent a cable of condolences to Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the death of his wife.

Decree approves law on mining

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday approving a law on potash mining in Jordan. The law states charging JD 6 per each tonne of potash by the treasury on monthly basis.

Princess Basma opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma opened at Alia Art Gallery Monday an exhibition of educational aids and handicrafts organised by Al Ahliyya school on the occasion of its silver jubilee. The five-day exhibition includes children's paintings, art works, and educational aids.

Pakistani speaker in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Upper House of Parliament Speaker Wasim Sajid will arrive in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan. Sajid, who heads a Pakistani parliamentary delegation, will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House of Parliament deputy speaker Jamal Al Saraih.

PSD opens new department in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Deputising for the Public Security Department (PSD) director, Major-General Fadel Al Fubeid, Brigadier Mu'ayyad Al Mubaslat Monday opened a new drivers and vehicles licensing department in Madaba. The department will save time and money to the citizens who used to travel to Amman for procedures concerning licences.

Biology exhibition opened

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri opened Monday a biology exhibition at the Comprehensive Secondary Girls School in Amman. The three-day exhibition displays biology textbooks used in a number of Arab countries, researches and references on biology and shows films and experiments.

Students to get assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) decided to distribute in-kind assistance to school students in a number of the Kingdom's regions on the occasion of the beginning of the month of Ramadan. The JNRCS sources said that large quantities of clothes were handed to students in Karak, Maan, Tafleh, South Shuneh, Deir Alla, Mafraq, Zarqa, Salt and the Jordan Valley. The sources said that the rest of the regions will get assistance through the JNRCS student sections.

Consumer corporation opens new branch

IRBID (Petra) — The Civil Servants Consumer Corporation (CSCC) opened Monday a new branch in Bani Kinana district. The opening ceremony was attended by the district governor and CSCC managing director.

3,784 Jordanians get jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 3,784 Jordanian workers out of 9,145 job seekers registered at the Ministry of Labour offices in various parts of the Kingdom got jobs over the past two months, according to an official source at the Ministry of Labour. The source said that Amman employment office got the lion's share with 1,260 workers out of 5,000 employed. Aqaba office came second providing job opportunities to 678 workers out of the total of 766 registered at the office.

Aoun wants fresh plan

(Continued from page 1)

ways of halting the two-month confrontation.

Parliamentary Deputy Pierre Helou, talking to reporters after meeting with Sfeir, called on the government of President Elias Hrawi to "spread state authority throughout Lebanon."

"This is our only way out of this tragedy," Helou said. He talked to reporters at the entrance of the two-storey hilltop stone monastery which houses Sfeir's seat in Bkirki, north of Beirut.

Meanwhile Aoun's forces slugged it out with artillery and rockets in snow-swept mountains northeast of Beirut with the Lebanese Forces militiamen Monday as fires burned out of control in a deadlocked battle for control of the Christian enclave. The snowfall blocked mountain

roads and forced Aoun's troops and Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia to exchange artillery fire without launching ground offensives.

At least a dozen fires blazed in the enclave. In Beirut several fuel storage tank fires burned out of control, one spreading near inflammable stocks at a large factory which manufactures arak.

Police said one person was wounded by sniper fire in east Beirut's Christian district of Nabaa.

By police count, the inconclusive showdown for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 839 people and wounded 2,290 since Jan. 30.

A Christian security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no solution seemed in the offing.

Issam Tantawi: A bold, passionate retrospective

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

The Alia Gallery of Fine Arts, located at the first circle, holds a retrospective exhibition of the works of artist/designer Issam Tantawi.

Very early in his life, Issam had a deep interest in art, painting in particular. But fate had it that he landed in Saudi Arabia, working at commercial design. This depressed the artist deeply, to the extent that he took the few paintings he had created, thirty canvases, carried them off to the open desert and burnt them down. "I could not bear to see them standing there while my made-to-measure work was getting all the praise and the money," Tantawi explains. "If I chose commercial work then this fine work must die. I thought I would never paint again. I stopped for seven years and then started again."

The earliest works exhibited here are biomorphic representations of folds and crevices departing from a certain point, catching both light and colour in snave gradations, flowing gently in all directions. Not all these forms are solid. In one painting the fine airy atmosphere is dissected by interpenetrating rays.

Issam exhibits rougher works of this period where square brushstrokes of intense colour build up evolving forms, depicting ruins and other constructions. He also portrayed prehistoric figures, with bulging eyes and folded arms that represent man as a timeless, placeless entity.

He went through a period where most of his work was done in blue-black. This morbid colour scheme, a wide-eyed owl, empty windows or ancient slabs that stood behind major forms, all depicted the fears of mankind.

Here we see the evolution of the human figure from sheer abstraction to the fleshy, sen-



The Crime

sual body of a female nude. But her voluptuous curves do not depart totally from abstraction since she sits in penumbra which causes shadows to form abstract areas of clear-obscure over her body.

In each of these paintings, solid mass is balanced by an area of free brushstrokes or dripping technique; a contrast of formal and informal that tantalises the artist and remains to be seen in his work. Issam makes attempts at collage, he glues on paint-tubes and lets the paint flow right out in a diagonal splutter. These pure colours are thoroughly intermixed with black and white in the background; this contrast in purity of colour, Tantawi also keeps as a landmark in his

work, part of his visual language.

We finally arrived at what he calls his latest style: Thrusts of strong brushstrokes cover the background while symbols, both spontaneous and acquired, occur intermittently around the canvas as if to give sense to the figure behind them. These symbols "bring one towards a simple understanding of a serious cause."

"Deluge" is a strong painting with a havoc of crisscrossing slab-like structures, and heavy brushstrokes. A bottle, instigator of all evil, and a traffic sign, promoter of organisation, are the retaining factors on which the eye rests. In another painting, the parking sign is the resting place.

This euphoria appears again in several canvases, with deafening rhythms, and a new set of symbols which, though dispersed, form a proper composition.

Tantawi displays clamer works as well. An arrow points vertically down at a schematic drawing of a child, all painted on a homely kitchen rag... simple elements that tell of the destruction of a humble household.

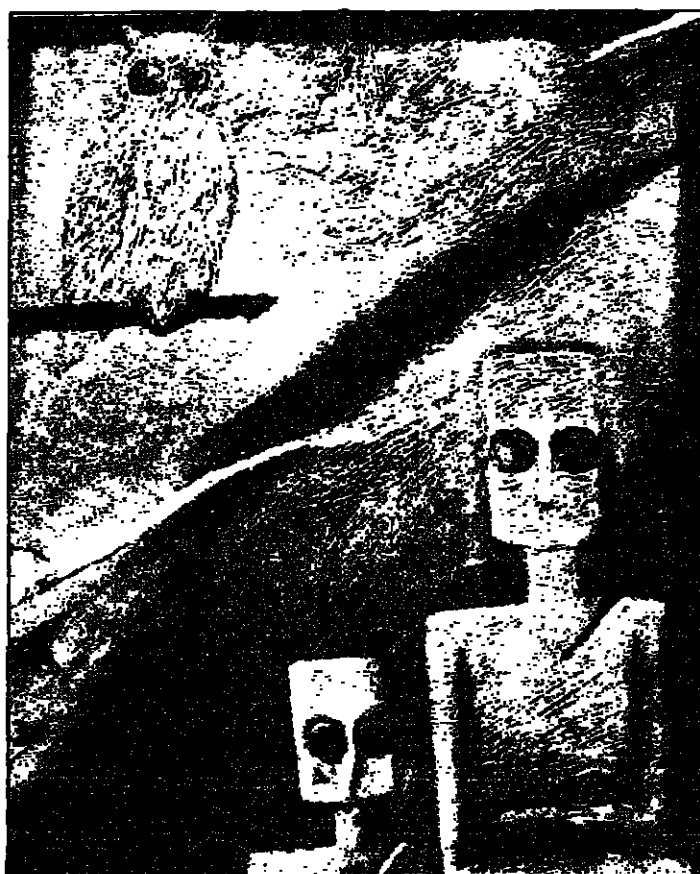
"I am tired of seeing painters deal with the intifada by painting a boy with a stone," exclaims the artist. "We can do the same thing with visual symbols." He adds: "This rag has got colour and pattern, even a little texture. I looked at it and said to myself 'it must find a place in my work,' it obviously did get there and now serves a specific need."

Tantawi reaches tactile reliefs, forming mounds over his canvas. On one occasion he cuts off his knotted tie and glues it on.

A period of evasion leads him into gestural mannerism. He uses his fingers to move thick paint around. He lays paints on in different thicknesses and lets them drip downwards. The intertwining formations create a wealth of form and colour tonalities within a monumental monolith. Details were photographed and kept by the artist as perfect entities.

Tantawi uses techniques such as spraying where large paintings look like graphic works. In "Freedom," for example, we find a figure of an eagle crashing his way out of a window. The eagle is not depicted in lines or volumes, it is insinuated by tonalities caused by layers of spraying. Here again the face of the ancient figure appears; what would freedom be if man was not there to experience it?

Among his best works is one purchased by the National Gallery, named "The Crime." It



Three Colours

portrays a beseeching figure, arms raised, covered with a red spattering of paint (blood). He reaches out to a golden portrait of a lady above, who is totally unaware of his presence. He is flanked by two statue heads that look on but are deaf to his plea. Below is a portrait of a man and a photograph of folded tents which overlap an area covered with newspapers. Between these and the beseeching figure, we see steps made of the same newspaper texture. Would the news media answer his call?

As for his graphic prints, they handle the subject of woman in all her states: her physique, old or young, her sensuality, her pride and her sorrow. He il-

lustrates poems that deal with the dilemma of orphans, of drinking, of the usurped land. Pessimistic, he portrays man behind the mask of an owl. Most graphics here are made in earth colours.

In his wide range of work, Tantawi maintains specific elements and techniques which respond to different moods and demands. On the surface, his works might seem varied, but analysed, they form a coherent visual language that develops along with the passionate character of Issam Tantawi.

This exhibition will be extended until April 15. Opening times of the Alia Gallery for the month of Ramadan: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawamneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibitions of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroideries, ceramics, wooden clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiyya Community College.
- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Arabic poetry recital by Dr. Walid Seif at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Documentary programme entitled "Conserving America: Challenge of the Coast" at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Baker's not much different from Bush

THERE IS still a big challenge to Israel in the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Jerusalem Friday. In his letter to Congressman Mel Levine, a California Democrat and a staunch supporter of Israel, Baker had this to say on settlements of Jews in Jerusalem: "I am also very aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish people as well as for people of all religions. Clearly Jews and others can live where they want, east or west, and the city must remain undivided."

If other peoples, presumably Arabs included in them, can settle anywhere in Jerusalem, then the formula just enunciated by the American secretary of state is a prescription for internationalising the Holy City. This has always a solid international proposal on the future status of Jerusalem and it has won some support and recognition. If internationalisation of Jerusalem is what the U.S. is now officially advocating, then it will be wiser if this stance is spelled out in the clearest possible manner. The Israelis cannot have their cake and eat it too. If Tel Aviv wants and seeks to keep Jerusalem, holy to the three monotheistic religions, united, then it must be prepared to accept to keep it so for all peoples as well, especially its indigenous people, the Palestinian Arabs. As Baker has poignantly pointed out to Levine, if Jewish immigrants must have access to Jerusalem, east or west, then others, meaning the Palestinian Arabs, must likewise have access to all of Jerusalem. Israel has been silent on Baker's pronouncement apparently because he has in effect called their bluff. It follows therefore that as long as Israel rejects the proposition that Jerusalem, east and west, is open to the Palestinians as well, then by default Israel must forfeit any claim to settle its people in Arab Jerusalem. And since this is the logical conclusion that must be drawn from the international position on Jerusalem, Israel should not have any right to stake a claim of its own on Jerusalem except in the context of a negotiated settlement of the basic Arab-Israeli conflict. Until then, Israel cannot and must not be allowed to settle any Jews, be they immigrants or otherwise, in Arab Jerusalem. In this sense there may be no contradiction between the pronouncement of President George Bush, categorically rejecting Israel's claim to have the right to settle Jewish immigrants in Arab Jerusalem and that of his secretary of state. For, as long as others, principally the Palestinian Arabs, are denied access to all of Jerusalem, then Israel has no right whatsoever to settle its own people in Arab Jerusalem. This impasse brings to the fore the urgency of holding an international conference on the Middle East with a view to settling once and for all the entire Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem, in conformity with international resolutions and norms. As long as Israel shuns such a negotiating forum, it must be prevented from taking unilateral positions on Jerusalem or the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday described a decision by the U.S. Senate to consider Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel as presenting an open support for Israel's usurpation of the occupied city, legitimising Israel's aggression on the Arab land of Palestine. The paper said that it is pointless for the Arabs to raise an outcry at the diplomatic level without backing their cries with practical steps, reflecting their unity and their genuine determination to regain their rights. The paper said that it is clear for all the Arabs now that an organised campaign is being launched on their nation from different sources and all is aimed at destroying the nation's will to fight or resist aggression. The recent developments point to one direction: that the Arabs are targeted by their enemies who wish to maintain their aggression on the Arab region and exploit its wealth, the paper noted. It said that the hostile campaign is manifested in the onslaught on Iraq, the ongoing Jewish emigration, the escalation of repressive actions on the Palestinians and the obstacles being laid in the path of any solution for the Gulf conflict. It said that unless the Arabs unite and take serious concerted action and plans joint strategies at an Arab summit meeting, the Arab Nation will remain an easy prey for its enemies.

Al Dustour daily discussed Monday a meeting by the Israeli government during which a general review of Iraq's military capability was made. This review brings to mind a similar situation preceding Israel's raid on the nuclear plant near Baghdad nine years ago, and points to one direction: that Israel is now contemplating a military action against the Arab country, the paper noted. It said that by doing this and by discussing the situation at a government level, Israel is thus joining the Western media in the ongoing hostile campaign on Iraq, following the execution in Baghdad last month of a British spy. Israel and its Western allies did not expect that Iraq will come out victorious from the Gulf conflict and were surprised at the victories achieved by the Iraqi armed forces and the country's military capabilities which can be used to repel any future aggression, the paper continued. It said that should Israel launch an adventure, the Middle East will be in for a new period of turbulence and conflict which can only harm world peace and security. The Western media, the paper said, have been preparing the ground for Israel to launch its attack on the Arab countries, and it seems that the time has come for Israel to implement the final act.

Sawt Al Shabab dwelt on the same topic Monday and said that the first thread of the international conspiracy on Iraq came from London's Heathrow airport. It was the same airport where a previous campaign was launched against Syria in a bid to subdue the Arab country and enforce the Western will and impose Zionist desires on the Arabs, the paper said.

Economic Forum

Investment climate in post-devaluation era

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE first question put to me in a TV programme on Arab capital abroad scheduled to be shown today on the Arabic channel was how good I thought the investment climate in Jordan was. The answer was very simple and ought to be very persuasive. My hypothesis was that our investment climate had been distorted and made incapable of attracting Arab and foreign investments. If it has failed to convince Jordanian capital to stay in Jordan or come back to it, this climate will not be able to attract Arab and foreign capital in the first place.

Devaluation drag. Our investment climate was seriously distorted as a consequence of the economic crisis which had erupted in 1988 and devalued the Jordanian economy. To put the economy back on the right track, we need years of laborious work and consistent policies. Even then, the

frightened Arab and foreign investors will wait a bit longer to make double sure that the recovery is genuine and set-backs are decisively ruled out.

The point is that the crisis led to the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. Superficial analyses may claim that devaluation spurs foreign investment. In a developing country, this is an outright misunderstanding of the facts of real life. Devaluation makes local currency less expensive. It does mean getting more local currency units, dinars in our case for incoming foreign currencies but it also means giving up that many dinars when the time comes to retrieve these currencies. In developing countries, devaluation usually breeds further devaluations and the foreign investor ends up giving more local currency units to get back his initial money. This was exactly what happened in Jordan. We

started from a situation where it had been alleged that the dinar was overvalued by about 20 per cent but the floated dinar depreciated by some forty to fifty per cent. Thus foreign banks in Jordan, for example, are suffering because in spite of flatter profits in the dinar, they have found that their return to capital has declined. Now they find it difficult to persuade their head offices to adopt any expansion plans in Jordan. This exemplifies the investment dilemma that has developed in the post-devaluation era.

Hedge against depreciation. Now potential Arab and foreign investors would want an assurance that the dinar would not depreciate further and further before they commit themselves and their money to investment in Jordan. No policy-maker, in my mind, will be ready to make a statement to

that effect although every one of them is absolutely ready to work tirelessly to achieve that goal.

In a certain sense, a foreign investor undertaking economic investment (factory, farm, real estate), that is a venture which entails capital formation and thereby trades currency for physical assets, will not worry because these assets are excellent hedge against currency devaluation. But the point is that our foreign investors are basically Arabs and non-resident Jordanians whose investments take mainly the form of the so-called indirect investments. These entail no acquisition of physical assets but refer to financial assets denominated in dinars such as shares and deposits which are not shielded against currency devaluation. The savings which finance such investments originate in the fully-open markets of Arab oil

countries and have therefore full access to international markets with superior and more diversified opportunities. Why should they, therefore, opt to come to Jordan? This is a question that needs no answer.

Exchange controls: added risk. The devaluation of the dinar has heightened investment risks in Jordan. Because devaluation was accompanied with drainage of foreign currency reserves, the risk of controls on the transfer of foreign exchange or the unavailability of these currencies in the first place has been an added risk which has contributed to the contamination of the investment climate in Jordan.

Industrial strife. Devaluation depresses the investment climate in another sense. First it leads to over-devaluation, and unreluctantly triggers inflation and substantial rises in the

cost of living. Later, come industrial tension and demands for wage increases which are obtained only through industrial action. This situation scares foreign investors who resent the idea of working under the constant threat of industrial strife and mounting wages.

Changing tax legislation. Of course, the situation has been complicated by the constantly changing tax legislations. It is true that a foreign investor would not mind to make handsome profits, and give up part of them in way of taxes, but the changeability of tax rates wrecks his calculations and might as well spill mistrust into the totality of economic policies. Unfortunately, that was our story throughout the eighties when we kept on changing our tax laws and, believe it or not, this happened twice in a single year: 1989.

Stunted educations and broken dreams

By Susan Linnee
The Associated Press

NDJAMENA, Chad — When wild-haired Chadian warriors from the northern desert descended on this sleepy capital a decade ago, they ran bayonets through books and strung rolls of film from the Normandie Cinema through the trees on Avenue Charles de Gaulle.

Their enemies from the south or the east or the west fired mortars into the country's only mainframe computer and ransacked schools and government offices.

The complex civil strife that consumed nearly 20 of Chad's 30 years of independence from 1968 to 1987 laid waste to more than just homes and buildings. It destroyed most vestiges of a fledgling government and administration throughout the central African nation and left citizens of the former French colony with little education and broken dreams.

AUGUSTINE Vanamby ran away to Ndjamena at the age of 16 from a village outside the southern town of Sarh where she had been married off for the bride price of five cows at the time when marauding bands of renegade soldiers were terrorising peasants in the region.

Now 22, to support her daughter and several members of her own family, she serves meals and beer in her two-room mud-brick house in Bololo neighbourhood and works as a prostitute at Feeling and Equinox, two nightclubs catering to French soldiers.

About 1,000 soldiers, members of a French presence that has been maintained off and on since independence in 1960, are part of Operation Sparrowhawk, meant to be a buffer against Libyan attacks south of the 16th parallel.

In a scrapbook bearing the name of the French contingent in gold letters, Augustine has saved photos from a trip to France where she tried to become a computer programmer.

"My money ran out, and I had to make more to support my daughter and mother and brothers and sisters," she explained, lingering over a picture of herself in front of a chateau. "So here I am, back at the old business, hoping the French will stay but that there won't be another war."

AT the Faya-Largeau oasis halfway between Ndjamena and the Libyan border, France is building a 2,800-metre airfield, and airport capable of receiving passenger aircraft straight from Europe — and putting military aircraft within striking range of Libya.

According to French sources, France agreed to build the 80-million-franc (\$14-million) airport if President Hissene Habre — a former guerrilla leader from

the north — agreed to the withdrawal of Operation Sparrowhawk.

Hassane Djanbei Adoun, the top regional official, is counting on the airport to make Faya the gateway to the mountainous Tibesti region to the north, where prehistoric cave paintings have remained out of reach of all but the most intrepid travellers.

Hassane is the new prefect, the top administrative officer in the Bet prefecture which saw fierce fighting in 1986 and 1987.

An oasis of some 10,000 people and the administrative capital of the Bet — named after the districts of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti — Faya was pounded by mortars, bombs and artillery from Libyans, Libyan-backed Chadian rebels and regular units of the Chadian army as late as September 1987.

"We have several thousand students back in school now for the first time since the end of the war," he said during a dinner in Ndjamena.

"But notebooks, pens and books are hard to come by. We have organised four soccer teams in the region, but the players have no uniforms, no shirts, so it's hard to tell who is on which side."

MOUSSA Elie, a 30-year-old high school teacher of French language and literature in Sarh, also wants books — grammar books, history books, dictionaries, even 19th century French novels like the Red and the Black.

"My students — and I — we are dying to read, to improve our minds and keep up with what is going on in the world. Well take anything, there is so little here, and no money for what there is."

Sarh is the hub of Chad's so-called useful southern agricultural region, but the town and its surrounding area have been hard-pressed since the world price for cotton, the country's principal export, fell 58 per cent in 1985.

Moussa and his colleague, Guerlabye Koumadoum, who teaches at the high school in Mongo in the centre of the country, are members of the tiny intellectual elite in the impoverished nation of 5.5 million with their \$350-a-month salaries that are usually six months overdue.

A senior Chadian official who was once a guerrilla fighter said one of the country's biggest problems is the rural exodus to the capital.

"Every functionary has about 20 to 25 people directly dependent on him," he said. "It's not that corruption is such a problem here because there's basically no money to steal. The problem is that civil servants spend very little time doing the jobs they're meant to do because they have to be out hustling to make ends meet for all their relatives."

LETTERS

Bravo JTV!

To the Editor

MAY I publicly congratulate Jordan Television for playing the film "The World of Puppets" on Sunday March 25. Jordan is now very aware of the importance of puppets in education, entertainment and installing values in children.

I must mention too that beautiful compliments that go their way for their choice of classical music which they now offer in profusion. We have waited a long time for quality shows such as these and beg for less trigger-happy characters in commercial movies.

Nelly Lams
Amman

'Nuclear proliferation threatens world peace'

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — As tensions with the Soviet Union have eased, the United States increasingly sees nuclear proliferation among Third World countries as the number one threat to its security and world peace.

"The president is strongly on record as believing that. But now one can see the emergence of an even greater threat than in the past," said one senior State Department official.

Last week's disclosure of an attempt to export equipment used for nuclear detonators to Iraq highlighted the issue. But officials and analysts say Iraq is far from being the only Third World nation striving to acquire a nuclear capability.

India already has the bomb. Israel is strongly believed to have a formidable nuclear arsenal. Pakistan is well on the way, even if it has not actually assembled a nuclear device, and South Africa is also believed to be well advanced.

Most worrying of all for U.S. policy-makers is the unsupervised North Korean nuclear programme, which officials and analysts believe is more advanced than that of Iraq.

Rear-Admiral Thomas Brooks, head of naval intelligence, told Congress last month that a dozen or so nations could have nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Apart from Iraq and North Korea, he mentioned nuclear research programme by Iran and Libya.

Richard Fieldhouse, a military analyst with the Natural Resources Defence Council, a private Washington think-tank, said the beginnings of a nuclear arms race between Iran and Iraq were already evident.

"The Iranians are looking for



sponsors to catch up the Iraqis and recently signed a science and technology transfer programme with China which includes nuclear-related technology," he said.

There may also be links between China and North Korea, while there have been persistent reports of North Korean-Iraqi nuclear cooperation, giving rise to the suspicion that China may be indirectly helping both Iran and Iraq.

According to Leonard Spector, an expert on nuclear proliferation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the nuclear option is already a factor in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the Israelis were increasingly worried about the

capacity of neighbouring states like Iraq and Syria to launch missiles carrying chemical or biological weapons at them.

At least 16 countries in the world already have chemical weapons. More are racing to develop or acquire ballistic missiles. A combination of the two would be deadly.

"The Israeli army's official journal recently had two articles about how Israel might consider using nuclear weapons in such cases," Spector said.

The only tool the superpowers have against such dangers is the non-proliferation pact. But some countries like India, China and Pakistan have refused to join and will not open their facilities to

international inspection. Others such as Iraq are widely believed to be flouting it. Jed Snyder, a Pentagon consultant, said he believed the Iraqis had successfully hidden the true extent of their programme from international inspectors.

The U.S. State Department official conceded that with Third World countries scrambling for hard currency, it would be difficult to prevent dangerous technologies spreading.

Washington has assurances from China that it will not sell medium-range missiles to Middle East countries. But the official said: "I would not disagree with the assessment that they would be eager to export items of that kind."

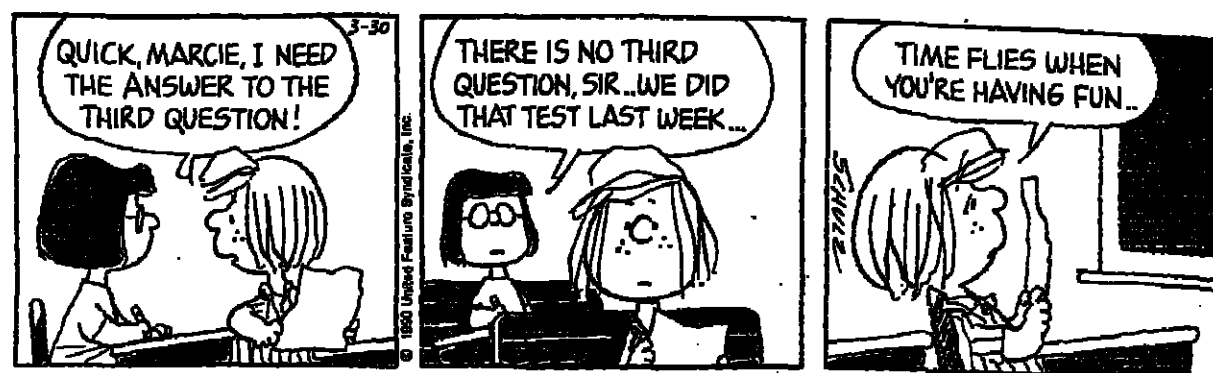
Mutt'n' Jeff

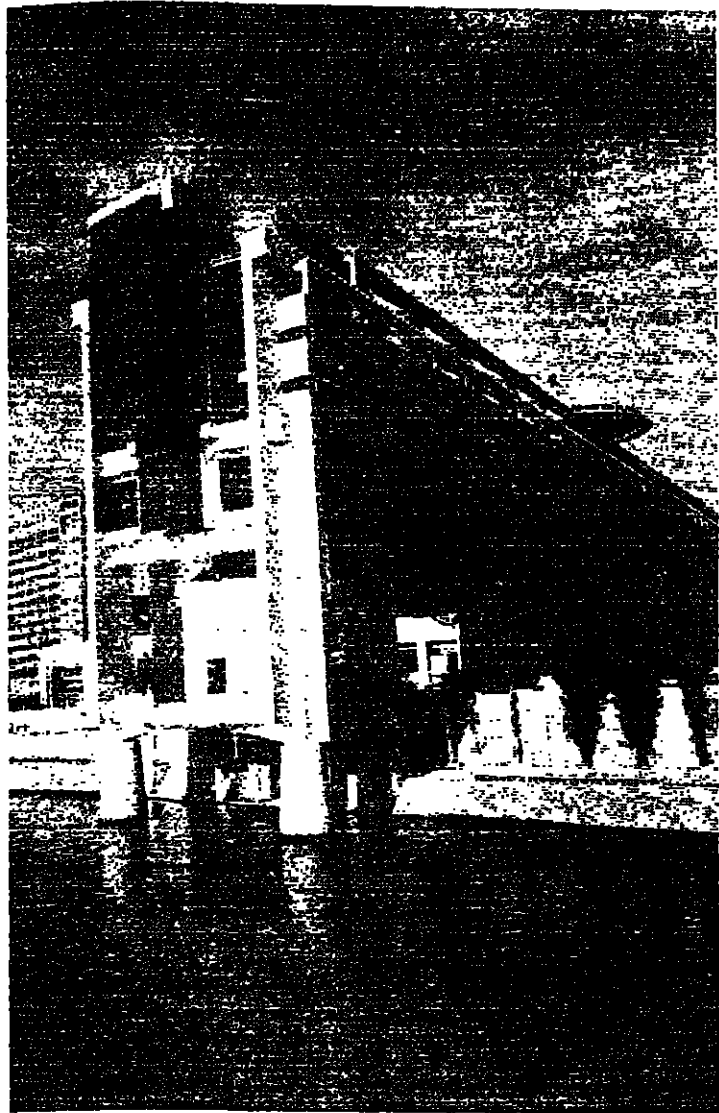


Andy Capp



Peanuts





'Bercy' — a real temple to office technology in Paris

By Claire Thierry

IN PARIS, in July 1989, amid the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French Revolution, another little revolution took place. The Ministry of Finance left its famous premises in Rue de Rivoli (it had occupied a wing of the Louvre for 118 years) and moved to a brand new building. It is now situated at 139, Rue de Bercy, in the east of Paris.

Farewell to the centre of the French capital and the prestigious palace which is now entirely devoted to the Louvre Museum! Farewell to the gilding and wood-paneling! Some high officials sigh. But most of them are highly pleased. They are leaving tiny, dark, inconvenient offices for an ultra-modern building, on the banks of the Seine.

The "Bercy," as it is familiarly called, is a real temple to office technology. It is huge and functional: 360 metres long and 31 metres high, with a total area of 260,000 square metres cabled throughout. More than 5,000 civil servants work there in conditions of ideal comfort: roomy offices, fitted carpets, movable partitions and contemporary furniture.

They have numerous services at their disposal on the spot (cafeterias, four restaurants, a sports complex, a creche with a garden, a bank, a library, an international conference hall, etc.) and, above all, the utmost in matters of organisation.

Indeed, this city within a city is the biggest pre-cabled building in Europe. Nearly 300 kilometres of cables link up 3,500 computers and terminals. This efficient system of communication, called "Scribe," designed and built by Bull, with the corresponding software, enables workers at the

Ministry of Finance to receive information in real time, without having to move. The latest electronic switchboard can handle 10,000 phonecalls an hour, a record in France.

Two other star performers illustrate the massive arrival of technology in administration. The first, called "Teledoc," is a little train (even so, it has 400 little carriages) which acts as a postal delivery service along the 6 kilometres of its route. It carries the mail to the addressee as soon as it arrives at Bercy. It takes half an hour. Previously, it took from one to three days.

The other, called Synodi, is an automatically operated filing system. The user types the code of the file wanted, on his computer, and a robot goes to fetch the document in the building where it is preciously stored. It takes two hours to receive.

Nor should one forget the tools put at the disposal of the minister and his direct aids: the helicopter pad on the roof and the landing-stage on the river Seine. They can thus get to the "decision centres" (the presidential palace of the Elysees and the prime minister's residence, the Hotel Matignon, faster, by air or boat.

This superb liner of the year 2,000 was designed by the architects Paul Chemetov and Borja Huidobro and built by Dumez, D.T.P., S.A.E. and G.T.M. in four and a half years. It cost 3.5 billion francs, which is about 10,000 francs a m². This is not all that expensive, when one considers the site, the quality of the appointments and the savings in operations which it makes possible. A remark by an executive: "From the point of view of logistics, it is sensational!" (L'Actualite En France).

Snake hunting — not at all charming

By Edmond Roy Laffernis
Photos: Aditya Arya

DURGA NATH stared at me through his blackened eyelids, as he explained the legend of his calling. Many years ago, he said, before the winds became rain and the nights became day, the god Vishnu rubbed his hands in mud and made a man he called Gorak Nath. Vishnu then gifted this creation to another god, Shiva, who told him that henceforth he and his clan would be the worshippers and keepers of snakes. In the vast pantheon of Hindu gods, Shiva is commonly depicted with a garland of serpents around his neck, and it is from him that the Naths of today gain inspiration.

Gorak Nath, the legend continues, after being told by Shiva to worship snakes then gave a great dinner at which he served cobra flesh and venom to the guests. It is from this great dinner that the progeny of the guests went on to become great snake charmers, and to develop an immunity to the potent venom of the snakes they handle.

But that is legend, and no one is more sure of it than Durga Nath himself, who while agreeing to take me along with his team for a snake hunt on the outskirts of Delhi, took with him his trusted medical kit. What that kit contained however was hardly the stuff to instill any sense of security in me as it was classic witch doctor stuff — herbs, bones, birds' feet, porcupine quills and 'holy' pebbles.

We travelled a few kilometres from the snake charmers' village of Molarband, on the edge of New Delhi to where Durga Nath assured me snakes were in plenty. The flat dry land was deceptively barren, sans life or so I thought, until Prabhu Nath, Durga's brother found our first cobra. Hardly had ten minutes passed when we had one hissing, writhing poisonous cobra in the bag, as Prabhu moved on to look into another hole in the earth. Putting his hand in rather fearfully, I thought, Prabhu pulled out by its tail another cobra, and with a deft twist of his wrist pinned the head of the snake down on the ground before picking it up — head jammed between forefinger and thumb. The hold is vital, for some snakes are so supple that if held even a half inch behind the head they can twist around and bite. Hence it is best to hold the head itself.

For Durga and his team, this was only the beginning of the hunting season, by which time they would have caught nearly 200 snakes to charm the tourists in Old Delhi.

SOME hundred families of the Nath — whose head is Durga Nath — live in the village of Molarband, an hour's drive from New Delhi. Durga Nath, who is also the village spokesman and wears

black eyeliner and the saffron robes of a holy man, explains that the Naths have been living here for more than two centuries and that his ancestors charmed snakes for visitors to the courts of the Mughal emperors. Much has obviously changed and today Molarband is slowly losing itself to the southward spread of New Delhi. But cobras, rat snakes and the krait are still plenty. Over the next few months, the Naths will gather some one thousand snakes from the surrounding fields, and each house will slither with serpents. Only a Nath woman, who has herself grown up with cobras on her bed and under her pillow, would marry a snake charmer. The family is therefore completely at home with snakes, as little girls, who can hardly walk, play by pulling deadly cobras by their tails.

The snakes that are caught by Durga Nath and his team are evenly divided among the charmers, and each snake charmer keeps one or two snakes all year for business. But most snakes are caught during the monsoons, when their holes are flooded and they slide on to small islands and climb trees for survival. Some are sold to hospitals and colleges for dissection or for venom milking, but most are worked for a few months and then set free.

"When we catch a snake," said Durga Nath, "we make an agreement with it, that if it will be our friend, we will set it free within a few months." But even if Durga Nath does not want his snakes to go back to the wild he has no choice, since most snakes fall ill in captivity, and have to be freed to survive.

The Nath travel across India, performing in market places, tourist spots, weddings and ceremonies. Their gourd or flute is merely for effect, since cobras are deaf and spread their hood at any threat. All performing snakes have their teeth removed and are often sick from a bad diet. But while there is a lot of effect and little magic in draping a toothless snake across your shoulders, there is great skill in catching the snake in the wild.

Durga Nath and his friends exercise infinite patience while out hunting, poking into bushes and examining patches of grass for any tell-tale signs of a snake. Eventually he sees a faint slither mark of a snake entering its hole, and spends the next 10 minutes digging the hissing reptile out. But while ordinary cobras are a dime a dozen in India, the real test of a snake charmer is to capture the King Cobra in the wild. The world's largest poisonous snake, the King Cobra packs enough venom to kill an elephant, and grows up to 15 feet in length. Often someone from Molarband will disappear for several months to Orissa, Assam or the Western Ghats



The gourd or flute of 'snake charmers' is merely for effect, since cobras are deaf and spread their hood at any threat



Ordinary cobras are a dime a dozen in India; the real test of a 'snake charmer' is to capture the "king cobra" in the wild



All at home with the snakes

and perhaps come back with a King Cobra. According to Durga Nath, the capture of a King Cobra is a long and hard business.

"THEY are very strong," he said, "we usually go with five or six people and take a sheet to throw over the snake's head." While many of the Nath have been bitten by snakes during their hunt, it is possible that they have developed a partial immunity to the venom. But the snake char-

mer's chief protection against the cobra is no more than what the mongoose uses against its enemy: speed and wisdom.

The young Nath of Molarband have grown up around snakes, but there are very few who want to learn the skills that Durga Nath displayed so well. "In fifty years," says Durga Nath, "the snake charmer you see on the streets of Delhi will have disappeared."

For the Nath clan, the new snaking season will mean

months of hunting cobra, rat snakes and kraits wading through swamps and reaching barehanded into hissing bushes.

But now as the furious hissing from the bags made clear, the snake charmers of Delhi had just secured their first catch and it was time to give thanks to the gods.

As we drove back to the village, Durga Nath got out of the car and produced an evil looking bottle local brew. The

three Nath then sat down on a bare patch of ground, and Durga with his saffron robes blowing in the wind, ceremoniously tipped the bottle earthwards to wet the parched earth below. That was all the father of the Nath got, as the liquid soon disappeared down three dry snake charmer's throats. The charm of snake charming may be fading, but for this season at least, the blessings of Shiva were upon them. — Discover India.

Iraqi leader warns Israel

(Continued from page 1)

nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Its air force bombed the Osirak reactor in 1981, while Iraq was at war with Iran, claiming the plant was being used to develop a nuclear bomb. Iraq denied that.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Nizar Hamdoun, under-secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said since binary weapons are easy to store, "it will be more difficult for attackers to pinpoint them."

He said that Iraq developed these weapons before the end of the Iran-Iraq war but did not use them in that conflict.

Hussein said Britain and the United States should recognise "the rights of nations and peoples to defend themselves."

The Iraqis have warned Israel several times in the last two years not to launch pre-emptive strikes against its burgeoning arms industry which Baghdad now says is capable of producing long-range missiles and rockets capable of putting satellites into space orbit.

In December, Iraq announced it had tested two missiles with a range of up to 2,000 kilometres, enough to reach Tehran, Iran's capital, and Israeli cities.

On Bazoof, Hussein said Monday the Iranian-born Observer correspondent had given Israel information which could have led

to the bombing of a plant where up to 300 Iraqis worked.

"Those Iraqis, in their (the West's) viewpoint, were not human beings. Only Bazoof, and not the 17 million defending their security, was a human being."

Hussein also mentioned international arms dealer George Bull, shot dead in Brussels 10 days ago by unknown assailants, who he said had visited Iraq.

"Didn't (he) have any human rights when they killed him with a silenced gun, simply because he came to Iraq... when Bazoof... had the world stand on its feet for him?"

Hussein did not say who he thought had killed Bull, a scientist whose projects included long-range artillery.

Bazoof was arrested while visiting the site of a fire near Baghdad which foreign newspapers said was a military plant.

In his speech Monday, Hussein also said:

"If aggression is waged on (another) Arab and he asks for our help, we will do all we can, with the help of God."

He said the United States was partly built by a "bunch of undisciplined gangs" before it became a superpower.

"America is a superpower in materialistic terms, but not a moral superpower that safeguards the rights of peoples and respects international laws," he said.

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ABC cautiously optimistic about next decade

Arab economies enter 1990s split between indebted and rich

DUBAI (R) — Arab economies enter the 1990s split between indebted nations which must attract more foreign exchange, and rich oil producers which need to allow their private sectors to mature away from state control.

The Arab World's biggest international bank, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), looked forward into the next decade with cautious optimism in its latest survey of Arab economies.

"Although the 1980s were undoubtedly traumatic times for many Arab economies, the many positive aspects of the decade should not be forgotten," said ABC President Abdullah Saudi, referring to the effects of the 1980s oil price crash.

"The overall economic and social infrastructure has been dramatically upgraded, and the region's industrial and agricultural base immeasurably strengthened," he said in a preface to

the 175-page report, received Monday.

In broad terms, the major oil producers in the Gulf, and Libya, have completed the large, state-funded infrastructure projects which have set the base for their economies, ABC said.

Prospects for their future growth and economic stability now rely on a successful devolution of state economic power into the private sector, allowing a broader-based economy, more resistant to oil price fluctuations, it said.

The challenge for indebted North African states, and other highly indebted countries such as Jordan, and Egypt was to keep fiscal policies under tight control to maintain creditworthiness in the international financial community, it said.

Referring to individual countries, ABC said that the key to Saudi Arabia's future development lies in boosting the non-oil

export sector and in greater overseas industrial expansion.

The big drop in state oil revenues in the 1980s has led to a quicker than expected structural change, with more emphasis on the private sector, it said.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Kuwait's oil exports and vast per capita external investments ensure its medium-term future but it has a long way to go in improving the efficiency of its internal economy, ABC said.

The United Arab Emirates' main problem is to ensure more even development among the seven emirates of its federation, which are dominated economically by oil producer Abu Dhabi and major trade centre Dubai, it said.

Iraq is a special case because of the damage to its economy from the war with Iran, but relatively minor damage to its oil facilities puts it in a strong position economically if it can work out a proper peace with Tehran, the report

said.

The creation last year of the Arab Maghreb Union of Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania offered them the advantages of more integration within two economic blocs — their own and the European Community.

However, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia especially must control population growth, and create more balanced industries and better employment opportunities, it said.

Egypt's recent economic reforms have put it in a better position for the medium-term, but the country's large population will still impose severe strains on living standards, it said.

Syria still suffers from a large foreign debt but prospects for gas production and the government's willingness to take more responsibility for economic problems rather than blaming external factors is encouraging, ABC said.

Algeria plans to double LPG production

NICOSIA (R) — Algeria will ask foreign firms to help double its production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by taking part in a four million tonnes per year expansion, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The Nicosia-based newsletter quoted Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Boussena as saying the state-owned firm Sonatrach would launch a campaign during the second half of 1990 to attract both producer and consumer firms to take part in joint ventures which would produce and separate the LPG.

The plans call for construction of an 800-1,000 kilometre pipeline from the Alrar field in the southeastern part of the country to Hassi Messaoud and Hassi R'Mel in the northeast, he said.

Two pipelines with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per year already transport LPG from the northeast area to Arzew on the Mediterranean coast.

LPG would be produced from the Rhourde Nouss field on the route of the proposed pipeline and from nearby oilfield where gas and LPG are presently reinjected, Boussena said.

He told MEES technical studies were already completed and preliminary contacts had been made with foreign firms. He did not name the companies.

MEES quoted Boussena as saying studies were also underway on a project to produce 1.5-2 million tonnes per year of condensates from the Haoud Al Hamra area near Hassi Messaoud. The unexploited gas field there contains LPG and condensates.

Talks with the Kuwait Foreign Oil Exploration Company KSC (KUFPEC) for an exploration and production concession near Nezarine in northern Algeria were at an advanced stage, Boussena said. Sonatrach discovered light, sulphur-free oil at a depth of more than 9,000 feet there in January 1989.

Italy's AGIP would also undertake further drilling in the Zemoul Elkebar region 600 kilometres southeast of Algiers where it discovered oil in December 1986 and January 1990, Boussena said.

Boussena told MEES talks were continuing with Italy on doubling a planned four to six billion cubic metre expansion of the Trans-Mediterranean (Transmed) pipeline which carries Algerian gas to Sicily via Tunisia.

The 1,100 kilometre pipeline, comprising three undersea lines, has a capacity of 14 billion cubic metres in its Algerian section, 13 billion cubic metres in Tunisia and 12.5 billion in the Sicilian.

MEES said further investment would be needed in both the Tunisian and Italian sectors to boost capacity of the Transmed through adding a wider fourth subsea pipeline or a fifth pipeline. Algeria would have to spend \$200 million on a booster pump system.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Uncertain oil demand may hamper expansion — OAEPC

KUWAIT (R) — Uncertain oil demand and the threat of import duties in consumer countries could hamper plans to expand the world's crude production capacity, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAEPC) said.

The Kuwait-based organisation said exporting countries would not have difficulty securing finances to expand production to meet growing world demand, even when foreign help was needed.

"The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare," the Kuwait-based group said in its monthly bulletin.

"The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma," it said.

Oil industry executives say huge investment in the oil sector is needed to boost output capacity and avert a new global price shock threatened this decade by

rebounding world demand.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto has said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries must spend \$60 billion before 1995 to boost output capacity by the required six to seven million barrels per day (BPD), up from 17 million BPD now.

OAEPC, which groups 10 Arab producers, said the extensive environmental campaign being waged against oil products in industrial countries posed another major problem.

"The campaign portrays oil as the most polluting energy source although coal is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous," the bulletin said.

"Any decision taken in the name of environmental protection must be based on scientifically proven facts about the scale of pollution caused by various sources and the costs of reducing it," it said.

OAEPC said a frank, constructive dialogue between producers and consumers and between industrial and developing countries was needed to achieve economic

growth.

"The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands. Are there any takers?" it said.

OAEPC groups OPEC members Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Libya and the United Arab Emirates plus three independent Arab producers — Egypt, Syria, and Bahrain.

EC proposes rules to fight trade piracy

GENEVA (R) — The European Community (EC) proposed rules Monday which would help the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade forum to combat trade piracy and counterfeiting of goods.

The EC's 21-page document was the first formal legal text put to a group negotiating protection of intellectual property rights at the Uruguay round of trade talks being held under the auspices of GATT.

EC negotiator Peter Mogens-Carl told a news conference the draft reviewed and revised, in legal language, ideas on protecting patents, copyright, trademarks and other rights the community had presented earlier in the 105-nation negotiations.

Other major trading powers, including the United States and Japan, have also put forward proposals, but they have yet to incorporate them in formal legal texts.

Protection of intellectual property rights has developed into a major issue at the Uruguay round talks, which were named after the country where they were launched in 1986 and which are due to conclude in Brussels next December with a series of agreements covering 15 sectors of international commerce.

The EC proposed that its text, which also covered protection of industrial designs, trade secrets, computer programmes, chip-board circuit layouts and geographical appellations of origin for wines, should form an annex of the GATT which sets the rules for 90 per cent of world merchandise trade.

A separate United Nations agency, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), oversees patent and copyright matters.

Under the EC proposal all GATT member states would comply with existing provisions of two intellectual property conventions administered by WIPO, and with additional commitments set out in the EC text.

These new commitments included enforcement procedures that would allow customs authorities to seize, forfeit and destroy goods that infringed protection rules, and imposition of fines or prison sentences on "trade pirates."

Disputes would be submitted to existing GATT procedures for resolving differences between trading partners, and countries would undertake not to resort to unilateral reprisals against a suspected offending state.

Delegate sources said this provision would prevent such action as the punitive tariffs the United States imposed in 1988 on imports from Brazil in retaliation for what Washington said was misappropriation of U.S. pharmaceutical patents.

Tokyo bull staggers again as stocks plunge, bank props up yen

TOKYO (R) — A fresh hail of bullets ripped into Tokyo's wounded golden bull Monday as share prices plummeted and the Bank of Japan had to step in again to prop up the ailing yen.

After weeks during which bad news has spread through Japan's stock and money markets like a plague, the latest virus appeared on the front page of a leading financial daily.

The crucial article, later denied, said the big Japanese insurance firms on this first trading day of a new financial year were planning to sell off dead wood stocks as part of a rearrangement of their portfolios.

"That really set the market off," said Jeff Usher, deputy general manager of the Tokyo branch of stockbrokers Smith New Court. "We didn't need to hear that."

The 225-share Nikkei Index fell 1,978.38 points or 6.60 per cent in the day to close at 28,002.07.

It was the second biggest Nikkei points plunge in history and the biggest since the October 1987 world stock crash.

The psychology of the market has been utterly and completely shattered," Usher said. "Once bitten, twice shy. The market is nursing some fairly big bites. It will take a lot of time for people to come back."

Worries over a declining yen, rising interest rates and slower corporate profit growth have since 28 per cent off the index since it finished 1989 at a record 38,915.87.

Monday's newspaper report on a supposed institutional sell-off pushed the yen down below 160 against the dollar just after the Tokyo opening, marking its lowest level since December 1986.

"This shows the yen has no positive factors," said Shohel Saki, Sawa Bank's deputy general manager.

The dollar closed at 159.95 yen and 1.6980 West German marks after 158.50 and 1.6945 at Friday's New York close.

It finished off its peaks on profit-taking spurred by dollar-selling by the Bank of Japan shortly after the opening.

Dealers said they were hesitant ahead of the Group of Seven

industrial nations (G-7) meeting starting in Paris Saturday. But some said they doubted if the G-7 would single out the yen's value against the dollar alone for any decisive coordinated action.

As long as other European currencies remained relatively stable against the dollar, they said, the G-7 was unlikely to risk seriously undermining this balance.

The weakness of the yen and the Tokyo stock market also reflected the fact that the world spotlight had moved from Japan to Europe.

"Europe 1992 has changed much of the world, and Eastern Europe changed it even further," said David Pike, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International. "It has eclipsed the Pacific age, the rising sun."

"We're seeing an adjustment to that. The danger is if the adjustment goes too far," Pike said.

Brokers said many expected the insurers to sell domestic shares in favour of high-tech and blue-chip companies.

"The insurers may want to prune their portfolios, but everyone's acting like they're going to use a chainsaw," said Paul Migliorato, salesman for Jardine Fleming Securities.

"The fear is that if anything goes up, institutions will knock it back," said an analyst with a foreign broker.

Crude oil trading was quiet in the Far East.

Gold bullion eased to about \$368.95 an ounce in late trade from \$370.50 in New York Friday.

In other regional markets, the Tokyo nosedive drove the Australian share market to a weaker close. The all ordinaries index finished 28.7 points off at 1,507.1.

Taiwan's stock market bucked the regional trend and closed sharply higher, inspired by the announcement of the sale price of the finance ministry's stake in three commercial banks.

The weighted index jumped 407.62 points to 11,163.49.

But as of midday Singapore stocks had fallen across the board in line with the Tokyo plunge.

Hong Kong's Hang Sang Index closed down 63.28 at 2,934.7.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

EC, Argentina sign trade accord

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Community (EC) and Argentina signed on Monday a trade and cooperation agreement negotiated in record time after Britain and Argentina restored diplomatic relations severed by the Falklands war. "This is a happy ending to a sorry story," Britain's junior Foreign Office minister, Francis Maude, told his EC colleagues before the signing ceremony. According to EC officials, Maude thanked other EC governments for supporting Britain during its 1982 campaign to recapture the Falkland Islands after Argentina's then military government ordered an invasion of the British colony. Relations between the community and Argentina were effectively frozen until late last year because trading and diplomatic relations with Britain were still not back to normal. The new agreement, which replaces a trade accord dating back to 1971, includes a special "democracy" clause at the request of Argentina, noting that relations are based on respect for democratic principles and human rights. Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stressed the importance of the EC's support for democracy and regional integration in Latin America after long periods of authoritarian rule.

Polish inflation falls

WARSAW (R) — Poland's harsh economic austerity measures are bringing spiralling prices under control but Warsaw needs more relief from its crippling foreign debt, the government has said. Deputy Finance Minister Wojciech Misiag said prices rose between five and six per cent in March, after monthly leaps of 78.6 per cent in January and 23.9 per cent in February. "I can say that March has been successful... we are really close to the stabilisation of prices," Misiag told a news conference. He quoted Peter Hole, head of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team which visited Poland this week, as saying the reform programme was "on track and going smoothly." Poles have suffered steep falls in real wages since the Solidarity-led government introduced its reform package January 1. Inflation surged over the next two months, hitting a record annual 1,266 per cent in February, as subsidies were slashed and energy prices quadrupled.

Egypt cut oil prices

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt announced Monday new crude-oil export prices reflecting two consecutive cuts totalling \$1.50 a barrel for most grades since mid-March. An oil ministry spokesman also disclosed the export price of a fifth blend, Ras Al Bihir and Khalig Al Zeit, which he said is superior in quality to the old, top-grade Gulf of Suez. The price cuts were the fourth and fifth in a row this year. The spokesman, who could not be identified under ministry rules, said export prices that took effect April 1 were: \$15.80 a barrel for Ras Al Bihir and Khalig Al Zeit; \$15.50 a barrel for Gulf of Suez; \$14.65 a barrel for Belayim; \$13.50 a barrel for Ras Badran; and \$13.20 a barrel for Ras Ghareb. All five prices were 60 cents lower than those decreed for the second half of March, the first posting period that included the new superior blend, the spokesman said. Those prices were conveyed to customers privately without public announcements, he said.

U.K. splits power industry

LONDON (R) — The British government split its huge electricity industry ahead of the country's biggest privatisation, which officials say will inject unprecedented competition into power supply. The forthcoming sale to private investors of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) could raise more than £12 billion (\$19.7 billion) and will be the latest in a series of state asset sales by the ruling conservatives. Energy Secretary John Wakeham told businessmen on the eve of the splitting up of the CEGB he saw "more potential for competition... than probably anywhere else in the world." The government plans to sell the two new generating firms, National Power PLC and Powergen PLC, in February 1991.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Whatever you say or do today is apt to be misconstrued so spend what time you can alone and study what can be helpful to you and keep your lips sealed if you are provoked.

confidential nature during the day that would be good for you to put in motion now, then be very social tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make specific entertainment arrangements with your good friends during the day, then in the evening do small courtesies for acceptance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to add something that enriches your daily occupation during the day while tonight go after personal goals in a positive manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can finish a discussion with a newcomer to each of your advantages after which you would be wise to go out in the world to contact biggie.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep at that course to get some big material results from your special activity and later you will be able to get off to see interesting people.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be available to what influential men want to do to encourage your progress, then later you see just how they can greatly benefit you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get those investments in charts or comfort finished for your surroundings after which you can get out with fascinating associates.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

- Swabs
- Scat lady
- Sweat rock group
- Woe's boy
- Noise
- Spirit
- Solar system
- Author Jaffe
- Superman's girlfriend
- Constant
- Terminus
- Toper's shakes
- Recoiled
- So-so grade
- Rotale
- Testing place
- Manages
- Vineyard
- Hop-Crosey film
- Before, prel.
- Employs
- Type style
- Scrooge's
- Woe
- Gang follower
- Louvre contents
- Recoiled
- Pub offering
- "Norma" type
- Far Eastern temple
- Wallpops
- Incline
- Douglas-Shen film
- Border
- Secret agent
- Anglo-Saxon
- Disorder
- Comical Kett
- Leap or fiscal
- DOWN
- Furniture
- Synthetic fiber
- Worn cloth
- SAR word
- Manor
- Bank deals
- Entice
- Cuckoo
- Concure
- Carpet
- Da-benture
- Oil
- Spirited
- Most
- Senior
- Container
- Bridges
- Give up
- More wily
- Invisible emanation
- Br. gun
- Grouch
- A Chaplin
- Bacteria
- Double curves
- Location
- Figitives
- Nab
- Melancholy
- Fairbanks' state
- Ballots
- Apportion
- Della of song
- Hippodrome
- Organic compound
- Beach, FL
- Rose's love
- Scheme
- Low card
- Simian

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAGLD
YOGUN
TENTAX
ROCCEE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THEY

Yesterday's Jumble: TULIP FAINT METRIC ALIGHT
Answer: Some people are tactful, while others do this—TELL THE TRUTH

Brown retains welterweight title

WASHINGTON (AP) — Simon Brown stopped Tyrone Trice with a potent combination 51 seconds into the 10th round Sunday to defend his International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight crown for a seventh consecutive time.

Brown (32-1) put Trice against the ropes and then repeatedly pounded the challenger with a series of blows that forced referee Steve Smoger to stop the fight.

Trice, the no. 1 IBF challenger, fell to 36-3 after absorbing only his second loss since June 1984. The end came two rounds after Brown got the only knockdown of the fight with a vicious left hook.

The bout was a rematch of their 1988 battle, when Brown claimed the vacant IBF crown by stopping Trice in the 14th round. In that fight, Trice had knocked Brown down and was leading on points before Brown rebounded to win.

Sunday, Brown established

control in the second round after an opening three minutes in which Trice got in the best punches by twice connecting with left jabs coming off the ropes.

Brown picked up the pace in the second round, stinging Trice with a good combination midway through the round. Trice retaliated with an impressive combination of his own in the final 30 seconds of the round, but it did little damage.

Brown scored with a crisp left jab in the third round that pinned Trice against the ropes. The challenger spent much of the rest of the round backing up, content to counterpunch with his back to the ropes.

Late in the round, Brown pinned Trice in the corner and scored with a series of blows that clearly stung the challenger. But the bell rang with Trice covering up for protection.

Trice used a good combination to get things rolling in the fourth

round, but Brown twice pinned him in the corner and did damage in each instance with an effective combination. Again, Brown was pounding Trice in the corner as the bell sounded.

Despite his barrage, Brown was cut over his left eye near the conclusion of the round.

The fifth round was more of the same, as Brown did heavy damage midway through by working Trice into the corner and landing with at least a dozen blows to the face and body. He duplicated that later in the round, opening a cut on Trice's nose and mouth.

After an uneventful sixth round, Brown again established command in the seventh with an uppercut that stunned Trice and placed him on the defensive. Trice, apparently weary, spent much of the latter portion of the round with his gloves over his face and often backpedalling from the onrushing Brown.

Brown got his knockdown with a crushing left hook midway through the eighth round that took the feet right out from under Trice and further bloodied the challenger's face. Trice spent the rest of the round hanging onto to Brown and was penalized a point for holding.

Trice recovered by the time the ninth round got underway, although he had very little left in his punches and did little damage to the champion.

One round later, Brown put an end to things. Trice objected to Smoger's decision, saying later, "I was extremely surprised."

In a preliminary bout, heavyweight Riddick Bowe improved his professional record to 15-0 by stopping Robert Colay at 49 seconds of the second round. Bowe, a 1988 Olympic silver medalist, floored Colay in the first round and again in the second round before the referee ended the fight.

Seles wins Texas tennis games

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — Second-seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia captured her second consecutive tennis tournament, defeating Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland 6-4, 6-3 Sunday in the finals of the \$225,000 U.S. Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

The fourth-ranked Seles, who won last week's International Players Championships, rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the first set to defeat the third-seeded Maleeva for the fourth straight time.

"It became 4-1 so quickly," said Seles, who won \$45,000. "I tried to work each point, one at a time. I started driving well and going for it. I got stronger as the match went along. At the beginning, I felt all the pressure."

Maleeva and Seles each held their first services of the match and were at 15-15 in the next game when rain hit, forcing a 26-minute delay.

After play resumed, Maleeva won the game and went up 2-1. Seles lost her serve next game as Maleeva hit a forehand volley. Maleeva then used a series of forehand drives and held serve to take the 4-1 lead.

The turning point of the match was in the sixth game as Seles held serve and closed to 4-2.

At advantage out on her serve, Seles brought the score to deuce on a passing shot from the baseline. Maleeva took the next point as Seles mis-hit a forehand. But Seles captured the next two points and the game.

After that point, Maleeva's game never recovered as she was broken twice, losing the set.

Seles continued to hit baseline passing shots and took a 2-0 lead in the second set. But Seles' six-game streak was broken as Maleeva held serve.

Both players alternatively held service. Maleeva had to work for her game, however, as the fifth game went to deuce twice. Maleeva closed to 3-2 as Seles shanked her return of serve.

Seles, though, utilized backhand drives (she hit 14 backhand winners to Maleeva's 7) and took a 4-2 lead. Seles put Maleeva on the ropes by breaking her serve to go up 5-2.

But Maleeva was not out as she came back to break Seles at 40-15

with a down-the-line forehand.

But Seles broke Maleeva in a love game with a backhand drive to capture title.

"I just made a few more mistakes than yesterday (Saturday), when Maleeva beat Lori McNeil of the U.S. 6-0, 6-4," said Maleeva, who earned \$22,500 as runner-up. "I didn't serve as well either."

Seles improved her record this year to 12-3.

The doubles crown and its \$14,000 first-place prize (per team) went to Kathy Jordan and Elizabeth Smylie of Australia who upset top seeds Gigi Fernandez and Robin White of the United States 7-5, 7-5. Fernandez and White won \$7,000.

Nicklaus wins first Senior golf

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — Jack Nicklaus became the fourth player in the Senior PGA tour's 11-year history to win in his first appearance on the circuit, claiming the title at the \$800,000 event Sunday.

Nicklaus fired a steady final-round 70 at the 6,837-yard, par-72 golf club for a 54-hole total of 10-under-par 206 and a four-stroke victory over Gary Player of South Africa.

Nicklaus joined Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and George Archer as winners in their Senior tour debuts. Nicklaus collected \$120,000 for the victory.

"I'm obviously delighted and I obviously played well," Nicklaus said. "I don't have to worry about

winning my first senior tour tournament. I think it's nice to get the monkey off my back. Of course, I put the monkey there."

"Winning will give me a lot of confidence," he added. "I think my chances of winning the Masters are pretty good. If I'm going to win a tournament on the regular tour, my best chance is at the Masters."

It was not as easy for Nicklaus as it might appear. Australian Bruce Crampton birdied the first two holes and was tied with Nicklaus early in the round. But after a double-bogey at the par-four sixth hole, Crampton was not a factor, eventually finishing in a tie for third with Charles Coody at four-under-par, six strokes

back. Player was Nicklaus' nearest rival, trailing by three at the turn, but the South African could get no closer as the golden bear birdied three of the last five holes for the final victory margin. Player pocketed \$63,000 for second.

Lee Trevino, who has dominated the Senior circuit in 1990 with three wins in his first four

starts, struggled to an even-par 72 Sunday which included a quadruple-bogey eight at the sixth. He finished in a tie for 24th at three-over 219.

Trevino remains the Senior tour's top money-winner with \$227,700. Nicklaus' \$120,000 first-place check vaulted him to fifth on the earnings list.

Chang triumphs in Chicago tennis

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Chang struggled but rallied to a 7-6 (7-4) 1-6, 6-4 defeat of fellow-American Jim Grabb to win the Chicago men's tennis tournament Sunday.

"It's the best way I know to celebrate April Fool's day," Chang said. "This was a confidence booster."

This was the first tournament Chang has played since he suffered a stress fracture of the hip in December while practicing. Grabb, who eliminated Ivan Lendl Saturday in the semifinals, dominated the first set with his service, winning 22 of his 26

points off service including seven aces.

"My serves were fine, my volleys were good but his passing shots did it," Grabb said. "I didn't prepare properly for the last set and I played the first set stupid. Good players take advantage of the opportunities and he did."

"He didn't have any pattern in his serves but he hit the corners. He didn't care where I was," said Chang, winner of the 1989 French Open. "I was fortunate to get the last break in the match. If I was broken in the first set, I couldn't have won. His serve was too good."

CAR FOR SALE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announces its desire to sell a Peugeot 505 car, 1982 with customs duty unpaid and in good condition. The car can be inspected at the UNDP office in Shmelsani and the bids for purchase should be submitted in closed envelopes and addressed to the Resident Representative of the UNDP from today and for one week.

For more information please call Mr. Ahmad Ghadieh Tel: 668171.

The UNDP office preserves the right to reject any bid without giving reasons.

DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Fully furnished two bedrooms apartment (penthouse) complete floor 200 square metres + terrace, two balconies, independent utilities (central heating, water, electricity), independent telephone line, European style furniture.

Location: In quiet area between Abdoun and Sweifeh. Please call tel: 917980

Workers rush to finish projects for World Cup

ROME (AP) — Crews are working feverishly to finish projects for the 1990 World Cup, but they're running out of time.

Soccer's global championship begins June 8, but the organising committee says seven of the 12 stadiums aren't complete. The delivery date for the Olympic stadium has been pushed back to May 30, just nine days before the first game in Rome.

Construction cranes tower over the unfinished roof of the Olympic stadium, where crews are working amid the din of electric saws and clanking machinery.

Renovation of the Olympic stadium will cost more than twice the original estimate and demonstrates Italy's problems in hosting the World Cup. Italy had four years to prepare but squandered the time.

Now workers are scrambling all over Italy to finish more than a billion dollars' worth of stadium renovations, road improvements and railroad, park and parking lot construction on time.

Union officials blame the hurried pace of construction for the deaths of 15 workers in accidents at World Cup projects. Costs have skyrocketed as contractors hire more workers to overcome delays.

Luca Di Montezemolo, the head of the organising committee who has consistently criticised the delays, said Naples might not be fully ready for the tournament.

"The external part of the stadium is in disastrous condition," he was quoted as saying in the

Italian press. "I don't know if we will be able to organise the World Cup in Naples in a worthy way in time."

But Alberto Conte, the official in charge of the work at the stadium, countered that there were no major problems and that the stadium would be ready for the start of the World Cup.

Conte's assurances are echoed by government and tournament officials all over Italy, who insist the work will be finished in time. Such delays are typical in Italy, they argue, but in the end Italy always does what it must.

At Olympic stadium, the site of the most extensive and expensive remodeling, steel workers labour frantically to stay ahead of other men crawling along the rafters high above the stadium to attach the roof made of sections of fiberglass cloth coated with teflon.

Except for the roof, all the major structural work is finished. But there are still hundreds of smaller jobs. The playing field, for example, is still a patch of dirt. The lights are on the ground waiting to be attached to the steel rim above. Workers just began installing the 85,000 seats in late March.

"There is still a lot to do," one construction foreman said as he surveyed the dull gray, unfinished shell of Olympic stadium. He spoke on the condition that he not be identified. "But most of it is detail work. Except for the roof the big jobs are done. I believe they will finish in time. Now, if

they need to, they can just hire more people to make sure."

Bob Feinabend, the foreman for the company attaching the roof, works his 85-man crew 11 hours a day, six days a week. He said the original crew was about half that size and only planned to work nine hours a day, five days a week.

"We didn't get to start work until the first of March because of the delays in putting up the steel for the roof. We were supposed to start in mid-December or the beginning of January," he said.

Still, he said his crew has put up 40 per cent of the roof since the first of March and should have no trouble completing the project before the May 30 deadline.

"If the weather stays good, we probably will finish in April," he said.

Workers also are rushing to complete the finishing touches on stadiums in Palermo, Bari, Cagliari and Turin by sometime in April and in Florence and Naples by May 15, said organising committee spokesman Giancarlo Bacchini. He said the stadiums have been completed in Bologna, Genoa, Udine, Verona and Milan, which will host the opener June 8.

With the delays, the costs have soared. Italy originally forecast that the local and national governments would pay 678 billion lire (\$548 million) for the stadiums. The estimate now is 1

trillion lire (\$850 million).

Costs have at least doubled in Turin, Verona and Rome. The estimated price of Olympic stadium alone jumped from 80 billion lire (\$64 million) to 170 billion lire (\$136 million).

Delays in Rome's ambitious 183-billion-lire (\$146 million) plan to build new rail lines and parking lots, widen roads and improve mass transportation for the World Cup has snarled the already chaotic traffic in the capital for months.

Two months from the tournament, streets are blocked and new track is waiting to be laid.

Public Works Commissioner Gianfranco Redavid notes that most of the work on 16 projects in Rome did not even start until February 1989. Still, he contends the work will be finished by May 15.

Arturo Pandolfo, the director or works for the state railway in central Italy, said three shifts are working around the clock, seven days a week to finish a new rail line from the airport to the centre of Rome, a new tram line to the stadium and new terminal buildings.

There also have been delays in Milan's 318-billion-lire (\$255-million) package of World Cup improvements. But Antonio Simone, the regional sports commissioner in Lombardy, contends that all the projects are near completion and will be ready by the middle of May.

Philadelphia beats 'the Suns'

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Charles Barkley scored 31 points and Mike Ginniski had 19 points and 13 rebounds Sunday as the Philadelphia 76ers won their seventh straight game, 141-112 over the Phoenix Suns.

Philadelphia placed eight men in double figures, improving its home record to 31-5 and maintaining its three-game lead over Boston in the Atlantic Division. In Boston, Larry Bird scored 36 points and Reggie Lewis added 29 in Boston's victory over Orlando.

In its first game at Boston Garden, the first-year expansion team played the Celtics even for 2 quarters. Then Boston closed the third period with an 18-6 run that made the score 101-90.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 28 of his 47 points in the second half, leading Chicago its

10th victory in 12 games.

Jordan, who totalled 118 points in the two games prior to Sunday's, had 14 points in each of the third and fourth quarters.

In Richfield, Ohio, Larry Nance had 24 points and 13 rebounds as Cleveland ended Indiana's five-game winning streak.

The Cavaliers, in a battle with Atlanta and the Pacers for the final two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference, have won nine of 12 games overall, and nine of 10 at home.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Darrell Walker had 14 points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists for his second straight triple-double and third in four games, and Washington took control early against New Jersey.

Jeff Malone scored 24 points and Bernard King 17 as the Bullets handed the Nets their 13th

loss in 14 games and 31st in 35 games.

In Inglewood, California, Magic Johnson had 33 points and 13 assists as Los Angeles defeated Utah for its eighth consecutive home victory.

The Lakers led 47-37 with 5:44 left in the second quarter before pulling away with a 13-5 run, and the Jazz got no closer than 11 the rest of the way.

In Oakland, California, Dominique Wilkins scored 37 points and combined with Moses Malone to score 41 of Atlanta's 78 first-half points against Golden State.

The Hawks won for the fourth time in five games and stayed a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Hawks are 10 games behind seventh-place Indiana.

In Dallas, Roy Tarpley had 24

points and 25 rebounds and led a second-quarter charge that carried Dallas past Milwaukee.

Tarpley had seven field goals — three on tip-ins — and eight rebounds in the second period as the Mavericks turned a 22-18 deficit into a 48-35 halftime lead, the fewest points they have allowed in a first half this season.

In Los Angeles, Winston Garland scored his only points of the game on a 22-foot fallaway jumper with 7.8 seconds left, rallying Los Angeles from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit against Seattle despite a 39-point effort by Dale Ellis.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH ©1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A5 ♠Q10532 ♠6 ♠QJ652
In first seat, do you open the bidding?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A5 ♠Q10532 ♠6 ♠QJ652
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK6532 ♠62 ♠K83 ♠4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
What action do you take?

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K42 ♠Q98542 ♠63 ♠85
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A53 ♠KJ952 ♠63 ♠752
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ9862 ♠Void ♠5 ♠AQ1053
What is your opening bid? Look for answers on Monday.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in
RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

EXTREME PREJUDICE

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

NEW KIDS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

KARAKEEB
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

SUMMER SCHOOL

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

East German Social Democrat leader resigns amid Stasi row

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme resigned Monday amid a row over his alleged role as security police informer.

Party spokesman Karl-August Kamlili told a news conference Boehme was giving up all his party posts.

Boehme, who denies links with the former Stasi security police, stepped aside a week ago to clear his name. After he had viewed his police files last Friday he said he would resume the party leadership Monday.

Kamlili, a deputy SPD leader, read out a letter from Boehme saying his first look at the Stasi files at security police headquarters Friday had shown there were still further documents to be viewed.

"This is not possible in the

short time available. For that reason he is resigning his posts out of respect for East Germany's young democracy," Kamlili said.

Nowhere in Boehme's letter did he acknowledge having worked for the Stasi. He said another reason for quitting was his health — he has been suffering from a persistent inner ear infection.

Boehme, whose party came second in East Germany's first free elections two weeks ago, was not at the news conference.

He was the second top East German politician to fall victim to the Stasi, the all-pervasive force that ensured hardline Communist

control until a peaceful revolution last year.

Just before the elections, conservative politician Wolfgang Schnur resigned after acknowledging he had worked for the Stasi for years.

The party he headed, Democratic Awakening, was in the victorious three-party alliance for Germany headed by the Christian Democrats (CDU) and backed by Bonn.

At a separate news conference, CDU leader Lothar de Maiziere said he aimed to be prime minister of East Germany's first democratic government.

De Maiziere, a musician turned lawyer, has also faced accusations of having worked for the Stasi.

He has said his links with the hated security police did not go beyond those necessary to defend his dissident clients.

Meanwhile the senior leadership of the SPD met Monday to discuss strategies for forming a coalition government.

The East German News Agency (ADN) said the leaders would speak later to representatives of the party's 88 deputies, elected to parliament in the country's first free elections on March 18.

The leaders will also decide whether to upgrade talks with the CDU, who won the election, to full-blown coalition negotiations.

The two parties met for the second time Sunday for exploratory talks on coalition, but disagree on whether to include the German Social Union (DSU) in what would be East Germany's first non-Communist administration.

The SPD opposes inclusion of the right-wing DSU.

Mandela to meet de Klerk Thursday

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Monday he will meet South African President F. W. de Klerk next Thursday.

The ANC last week postponed exploratory power-sharing talks with the white government, due on April 11, in protest against the police killing of up to 17 demonstrators in the black township of Sebokeng.

"I am certainly looking forward to the meeting between myself and the state president. He has invited me to see him and I accepted," Mandela told reporters at Durban airport.

De Klerk's office had no immediate comment.

Mandela landed at Durban on his way to areas of Natal province where supporters of the ANC-allied United Democratic Front are fighting the conservative Inkatha Movement of chief Man-

gosethu Buthelezi.

Reporters overheard him making arrangements for the meeting with de Klerk from an airport telephone. The reporters heard him say each man would be accompanied by three advisers.

Mandela told reporters afterwards he would meet the president Thursday.

He said at the weekend he wanted government guarantees that it would "exercise effective control" over the police, whom the ANC accuses of being largely responsible for inciting violence in black areas.

Mandela was to have addressed a joint rally with Buthelezi Monday to plead for peace in Natal, where more than 2,500 people have been killed in three years. Fighting intensified dramatically last week.

But the ANC also cancelled that meeting, saying it could pro-

voke increased bloodshed.

Mandela's close colleague Walter Sisulu told reporters on Monday Mandela would not meet Buthelezi at all during his two-day visit to the region.

Mandela told a rally near the coastal town of Port Elizabeth Sunday that the ANC would be prepared to go ahead with the talks, which had been scheduled for April 11, if the government guaranteed to control the police force.

Up to 17 people died last Monday when police fired on crowds demonstrating in the black township of Sebokeng against high rents and inferior living conditions under apartheid.

"As soon as the government takes effective measures to stop police brutality, we will examine the question and approach the government for another date," said Mandela.

Bishops criticise politicians for blocking genuine land reform

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Roman Catholic bishops Monday criticised ruling party politicians for rejecting President Corason Aquino's nominee for secretary of the agrarian reform department, saying the party is an obstacle to genuine land reform.

Aquino said she still supports the appointment of lawyer Florencio Abad to the post. Abad resigned as member of the House of Representatives to join the Aquino cabinet.

Some newspapers reported

Monday that Aquino has hinted she will ask Abad to resign because he was too controversial.

Aquino met Sunday with leaders of the ruling Struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, or LDP, but failed to win support for Abad's confirmation from the congressional commission on appointments, where the party has a majority.

The bishops said they had hoped that the comprehensive land reform law, "imperfect though it was, would be a signifi-

cant step forward in achieving a just redistribution of wealth in our country."

"But we... wish to express our great disappointment with the LDP, which, by blocking Secretary Florencio Abad's confirmation... has shown itself to be a major stumbling bloc to genuine agrarian reform."

Aquino said in a statement Monday she would keep pushing for Abad's confirmation.

1 killed, 4 wounded in Crete pre-poll violence

IRAKLION, Crete (R) — One man was shot dead and four people were wounded in clashes between rival political parties on the island of Crete.

It was the most serious violence to date ahead of Greece's national election next week.

Police said Emmanuel Yakoumakis, 37, was killed during a day of fighting between supporters of Socialist Party leader Andreas Papandreu and conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis.

Sunday's clashes erupted after Papandreu's supporters erected barricades to stop people driving to the airport to welcome Mitsotakis during a campaign swing through Crete, a Socialist stronghold.

A Socialist supporter, George Maniatis, 16, was shot in the leg and taken to hospital at noon.

In an apparent reprisal, shots were fired later into a group of Mitsotakis supporters from a car, police said. Yakoumakis was killed and a journalist and a boy were wounded.

A woman was accidentally shot and wounded at the start of Mitsotakis's rally in central Iraklion when pistols were fired into the air in a traditional Cretan gesture of celebration.

Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) and Mitsotakis's conservative New Democracy Party exchanged angry notes blaming each other for the violence on Crete.

The outgoing government of Prime Minister Xenophon Zolotas, a neutral political figure who led an all-party administration after inconclusive elections in November, appealed for calm.

Greeks vote for the third time in 10 months next Sunday to try to break a political deadlock which has paralysed the country since Papandreu lost elections last June after eight years in power.

The latest opinion polls suggest that, as in June and November, no party will win an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

Polish army remembers Katyn victims

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish army for the first time Sunday honoured the soldiers and civilians who died in labour camps or were executed in the Soviet Union during World War II.

"During this month of national remembrance, the nation recollects the facts and events of World War II, the battlefields, the places of torment and the places of the torture," the Rev. Florian Klewiado, the main chaplain of the Polish army, said in a nationally televised mass in Warsaw's Victory Square.

This year's annual month of national remembrance is a milestone because under Poland's previous Communist leaders, official commemorations never publicly mentioned the fate of Poles who perished in the Soviet Union.

Attending the mass which opened the month of remembrance were President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and hundreds of relatives of an estimated 4,300 Polish officers executed by the forces of Soviet leader Josef Stalin in the Katyn Forest.

The slain Polish officers and Polish civilians who died in Soviet labour camps were remembered in the "call of the dead," a symbolic ceremony when those who died for Poland are remembered. An estimated 500,000 of the 1.5 million Poles deported to Siberia died there.

The relatives of the Katyn Forest executions are still seeking official recognition from Moscow acknowledging that the Soviet Union was responsible for the deaths.

The officers had been deported to the Soviet Union after World War II began. Their bodies were found by the German Nazi soldier in 1943. Stalin claimed Hitler's forces had murdered the officers in 1941.

Mayor Bono chases motorcyclists

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — He does not wear a badge, but Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono figures he has enough moral authority to chase down speeding motorcyclists. Straddling his black motorcycle last weekend, Bono spotted a motorcyclist rocket through an intersection on Palm Canyon Drive, the main thoroughfare in the desert resort 100 miles east of Los Angeles.

"I chased him down," Bono said Tuesday. "He said something about not being able to read my shirt, and I told him, 'you'd better learn to read real fast unless you want to spend the night in jail.'"

That is when the young rider noticed "Mayor Sonny Bono" printed on Bono's T-shirt. The mayor, who became famous singing "I Got You Babe" with former wife Cher, got his man.

"We have had hundreds of those bullet bikes come in the last three years," the mayor said. "If they want to behave, fine. But most just go screaming through here."

Students in trouble after attending pop concert

Macon, Georgia (AP) — New Kids on the Block, the pop group known for its clean image and anti-drug stand, has gotten some students in trouble with the Gilead Christian Academy. Officials of the independent Baptist School found out that some of their students attended a March 4 concert by the group, violating a school policy that makes attendance at rock concerts — along with smoking, drugs and alcohol — grounds for expulsion.

Keith Scott, Gilead dean of students, said the students will not be asked to withdraw. But he sent a letter to parents reminding them of school policies on the admissions applications they signed. He added that rock music "is in direct opposition to the word of God. This stand we take without apology."

Some parents complained that it was their right to decide what concerns their children attended. "And we have the choice to admit the student or not," Scott said. The school has 400 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Man wanted in wife's stabbing hit by lightning

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — A man sought for questioning in the stabbing of his wife remains in critical condition after being struck by lightning, authorities said. Kevin Callahan's wife, Janet, was in critical but stable condition at the same hospital, Bayfront Medical Centre. Her husband was found semiconscious Saturday morning on a fishing catwalk at the Gandy Bridge, police said. He muttered to rescuers that he was wanted by police, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department said. Doctors determined he had been hit by lightning, said sheriff's spokeswoman Marianne Pasha. Mrs. Callahan was stabbed in the throat and back with a large butcher knife, police said. St. Petersburg police charged Callahan, 32, with aggravated battery Saturday afternoon as he lay in a hospital bed.

Mother has one twin prematurely

ATLANTA (AP) — A 24-year-old woman who was expecting twins in July has delivered one baby, but will have to wait on the other. In a rare birth doctors say was one of just 14 cases reported nationally, Donna Krasenica delivered a 66-kilogramme baby girl, Shaikora, at Crawford Long Hospital prematurely. Shaikora was listed in critical condition in Crawford Long's intensive care unit. Her mother was in good condition. Doctors were able to stop Mrs. Krasenica's labour with the second baby, and hospital officials said she will remain in bed until her second child is delivered. "Shaikora is my first child, and I wasn't paying much attention to anything except the birth when I heard somebody in the delivery room say something about there being only 13 known cases like mine," Mrs. Krasenica said. Officials said the baby was delivered as Dr. Camille Davis-Williams tried to stop the premature birth of Shaikora. The amniotic sac for the second baby did not break, so the doctor was able to halt further labour, Brown said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Storms kill 166 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Tropical summer storms battering Bangladesh for the past nine days have killed 166 people and injured at least 1,600 others in house collapses and accidents at sea, police and newspaper reports said Monday. A Bengali language daily Ittefaq said the latest deaths occurred Sunday when 13 people were killed and at least 200 injured in a storm that ripped through the coastal district in the south and the central province of Manikganj. At least five people were killed and 200 injured in house collapse on the island of Utrishar off the southeastern coast, the newspaper said. Another four people were killed in the coastal district of Noakhali and four others died in Manikganj. Ittefaq said. At least 100 fishermen drowned last Thursday in a sudden storm in the Bay of Bengal, police officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The fishermen were listed as missing, but the officials, contacted by telephone, said Monday there was no hope of finding survivors. Thursday's storm also killed 15 people in the Noakhali district, 120 kilometres southeast of Dhaka. Many of the bodies were found buried under the debris of collapsed mud-and-straw huts. At least 500 people were injured.

Tiananmen Square reopens to public

PEKING (AP) — Tiananmen Square reopened to the public Monday with armed police maintaining a conspicuous presence among sparse rainy-day crowds. The vast square was closed to ordinary citizens Sunday, when overseas dissidents had called on students and others to "stroll" through the square in a silent protest over the military suppression last June of the pro-democracy movement. The city instead brought in some 5,000 schoolchildren who banged cymbals and beat drums as part of ceremonies to arouse civic enthusiasm for the Asian Games, to be held in Peking in September. Chinese offices and factories told people to stay away from the square Sunday and warned they should not go to Tiananmen on other anniversaries of events highlighting the April-June democracy campaign. The 40-hectare (100-acre) square, China's symbolic political centre, was open as usual Monday, but with a heavy police presence.

Gunmen kill 4 people in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen sprayed bullets from a car in a Karachi street early Monday, killing four people and wounding six, police said. The men fled after the shooting in the centre of Pakistan's biggest city which is frequently hit by ethnic riots. More than 1,000 people have died since 1986 in ethnic unrest in southern Sind province of which Karachi is the capital.

World to mark Earth Day '90

WASHINGTON (AP) — A worldwide celebration of the environment will envelop this battered and polluted planet this month, and by all accounts Earth Day '90 will dwarf its namesake of two decades ago. Even corporate America wants to get involved. Planning for the environmental extravaganza has been in the works for more than a year. President George Bush has proclaimed April 22 Earth Day, and governors and mayors across the country are issuing similar proclamations. It was 20 years ago that Earth Day '70 ushered in the modern environmental movement. Denis Hayes, a California lawyer who was instrumental in the first Earth Day activities and is chairman of Earth Day 1990, says he wants this year's event to grab the attention of a new generation of activists for the coming decade and the next century.

Top mafia hit man arrested

ROME (R) — One of the mafia's most wanted "hit men" was arrested in the Sicilian town of Palermo Sunday after nine years on the run, police said. A spokesman said police had wanted Giuseppe Lucchese, 29, who was seized with his girlfriend, in connection with up to 30 murders, including those of several senior policemen and public figures. Top anti-mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone, who helped to plan the arrest, described the police operation as one of the most important coups against the mafia in recent times. Lucchese is suspected of being behind the killing of police Commissioner Giuseppe Montana in July 1985 and that of former Republican Senator Ignazio Miano the year before. He is also believed to have been a member of a squad which killed Palermo Prefect Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, his young wife and bodyguard in 1982.

Greens take lead in Slovenian campaign

BELGRADE (R) — Environmentalist candidates in Slovenia have taken a surprise lead in popularity polls ahead of Yugoslavia's first free multi-party elections since World War II, Belgrade newspapers said Monday. The daily newspaper Vecernje Novosti said a poll showed the Greens would get 31.3 per cent of the vote in elections due to start on April 8 with the Communists running second. It gave no percentage for the Communists or other opposition parties. A total of 17 political parties and groups, including the Communists who have changed their name to the Democratic Reform Party (DRP), are taking part in elections for the regional parliament and for the republic's president. Recent polls have shown that former Communist Part chief Milan Kucan is leading in the presidential race while opposition parties could win a majority in parliament. All Slovenian parties favour Western-style Social Democracy and sweeping autonomy for Yugoslavia's eight constituent republics and provinces while some opposition leaders have called for secession from Yugoslavia.

Relatives claim bodies of U.S. fire victims

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (R) — Grief-stricken relatives have claimed the bodies of 48 Hondurans who had sought to escape the grinding poverty of home by migrating, only to perish in a New York arson fire. Honduran President Rafael Callejas, who attended a brief ceremony at the airport after the coffins came in, called on Honduras to unite and help each other accept the tragedy.

Soviet army chief alarmed at spread in draft dodging

MOSCOW (R) — An eight-fold rise in draft-dodging in Lithuania and elsewhere in the Soviet Union, inspired by growing nationalism, is causing alarm in the armed forces, the chief of the Soviet general staff said Monday.

General Mikhail Moiseyev revealed in an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda that the number of young men refusing to sign up had jumped to 6,647 last year from only 837 in 1985.

Far from helping turn in the draft-dodgers, authorities both in the Baltic republics and in other centres of separatism often encouraged them by passing legislation which incited conscripts not to sign up, he charged.

Moiseyev's remarks, published to coincide with the start of the spring recruiting season, followed a bitter dispute between the Kremlin and the new pro-independence Lithuanian government over the fate of young deserters seized by troops last week.

"Special alarm is being caused in the army by the frequency of attempts to refuse military service," said Moiseyev. "The statistics are very alarming."

"This is the result of the influence of many negative factors including the strengthening of nationalist manifestations in a number of regions, and anti-army campaigns conducted by various informal organisations."

Moiseyev said that of 259 people refusing military service in Lithuania and the two other Baltic republics last year, only two had been sentenced.

In the three Transcaucasian republics of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, also the scene of growing nationalist and separatist

sentiment, just one out of 1,146 draft-dodgers was sentenced in the same period.

"More than that, local authorities in a number of republics have adopted anti-constitutional laws which effectively provoke young people to refuse to serve and to desert," Moiseyev said.

"It is worth asking legislators why they are so irresponsible about the fate of young people, pushing them towards crimes which are punishable by law."

A movement called Geneva-49 has been active in the three Baltic republics, Georgia and other outlying Soviet republics in recent months persuading young men not to sign up in the Soviet army, which they denounce as an "army of occupation."

The group justifies the call with reference to a provision in the 1949 Geneva Convention, which it says releases people from the obligation of serving in occupying forces.

Lithuanian authorities, locked in a battle of wits with the Kremlin since formally declaring a return to the republic's pre-war independence on March 11, have gone further, defending the right of conscripts to desert.

The Lithuanian government last week accused the Kremlin of "kidnapping" after troops in the capital Vilnius and the second city, Kaunas, burst into psychiatric hospitals and seized deserters who had taken refuge in them.

A statement by the Soviet Interior Ministry, published in the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda Sunday, attacked Geneva-49, accusing it of misrepresenting the convention and speculation on people's ignorance.

Inquiry begins into huge gas blast in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — A massive fire at a liquefied petroleum gas plant, which caused the largest evacuation in Sydney for 20 years and closed Australia's busiest airport, could easily have led to a catastrophe, firemen said Monday.

They said it was a miracle no one was killed or injured when the explosion of a 40,000 gallon tank set off a series of spectacular blazes which sent flames several hundred metres into the night sky Sunday.

Witnesses said they thought a plane had crashed at nearby Sydney Airport. One at least described the initial mushrooming funnel of flame as "Hiroshima come to Sydney."

Around 100 fire officers fought the inferno for eight hours. Thousands of people living within three kilometres of the blaze were evacuated, including guests at a luxury airport hotel and travellers at the airport's international terminal.

"I thought it was an atomic blast," said John Tarlington.

"We looked out of the window and there was a huge orange ball in the sky. Because we're so close to the airport, my second thought was that a plane had crashed."

The exploding tank was catapulted 300 metres into a canal, smaller tanks also blew up and buildings in the plant, which was unattended at the time of the fire Sunday night, were burnt to the ground.

"The whole area is devastated," said Ross Brogan of the fire investigation unit. "Buildings are demolished and shattered like matchwood... it's just total devastation."

"If some of the tanks had

blown towards us, where we were evacuating from, we could have lost lives," he said.

Fire officers said they did not know what caused the initial fire. Investigators were only allowed to enter the plant around mid-morning because of the danger of further explosions.

Officials of the company which owned the gas plant said they believed a faulty release valve failed to work, allowing pressure to build up in the 40,000 gallon tank and causing an explosion rather than a burn-off.

A police spokesman said it was the largest civilian evacuation in Sydney, Australia's largest city, in his 20 years in the force and probably the biggest in Australia since cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin in 1974.

A spokesman for the plant operator Boral said he could not

estimate the amount of gas lost or the damage bill as he did not know how full the exploded tanks were.

New South Wales Premier Nick Greiner announced an inquiry into the explosion which environmentalists, local residents and opposition politicians said strengthened the case for chemical and fuel plants being moved away from residential areas.

Boral General Manager Peter McDonald said the lack of casualties proved the company's safety measures were sufficient.

"In the cold light of morning the events of last night proved to be contained almost entirely within the perimeter," he told a radio interviewer.

"Quite a large amount of brilliance of the fire was in fact safety relief valves working precisely as they were designed to do."

Le Pen hails call for tougher immigration laws

NICE, France (AP) — Jean-Marie Le Pen has hailed calls by mainstream conservatives for tougher immigration laws as proof his extremist National Front Party has seized the leadership of the French right.

Chatting with reporters covering the eighth party congress, Le Pen said former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing had fallen into step behind him on the issue.

"He has the same values and no doubt the same preoccupations," Le Pen said as delegates roamed through the huge, flag-draped amphitheatre at this French Riviera resort.

Giscard d'Estaing, leader of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) coalition, proposed a national referendum on immigration Saturday at a weekend meeting of conservative leaders. But in an interview with the French television network TF1, he denied he shared Le Pen's views.

The 1,600 delegates chose Le Pen Saturday to lead the party to what they hope will be victory in

legislative elections in 1993 and presidential balloting two years later.

In a 90-minute speech to close the three-day conference Sunday, Le Pen took a swipe at Giscard d'Estaing as a latecomer to his views on immigration, the most explosive social issue in the country.

"If Giscard d'Estaing starts speaking like Le Pen, the people will prefer the original to the copy," he said. "He'd like to be elected under our ideas rather than fight on his own."

Delegates earlier adopted a wide-ranging platform and installed a 100-member Central Committee to make major party decisions.

Le Pen, who won worldwide notoriety in 1987 by terming the Holocaust a "detail of history," favours deporting all immigrants who arrived in France since 1974.

About 4 million of the country's 55 million people are immigrants, the majority of them from

former French colonies in North Africa.

Meanwhile, leaders of the traditional right concluded their summit in suburban Paris, working out a common position on immigration ahead of talks this week with the Socialist government.

Premier Michel Rocard has called for a multi-party offensive on racism following a series of racially motivated killings and beatings over past months. The National Front was not invited to the meeting.

During their two-day meeting, mainstream rightist leaders adopted a tough immigration platform they say must accompany any anti-racism legislation.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, a former premier and leader of the Rally for the Republic Party, joined Giscard d'Estaing in calling for a nationwide referendum on immigration.

"Our attitude is founded on the will to defend French society, its

civilisation, its personality and its human balance," said Chirac, adding that immigration is "out of control."

A poll taken during a six-month government investigation into racism showed last week that 75 per cent of French citizens thought there were too many north Africans in France.

The conservatives propose the government enforce firm measures to deport illegal immigrants, tighten rules for political asylum and shorten student visas from one year to the length of the course.

Under the proposals, only foreign workers with 10-year visas could be joined by their families. French immigration laws would be harmonised with those of the 11 other European Community members.

The conservatives also favour "constructive dialogue" between public officials and French Muslims, guaranteed religious freedom and new subsidised housing to prevent immigrant ghettos.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	07	16	63 Cloudy
ATHENS	12	24	21 Clear
BAKU	19	26	78 Cloudy
BANGKOK	28	34	82 Clear
Buenos Aires	14	25	57 Rain
CAIRO	10	20	70 Cloudy
CHICAGO	07	15	53 Clear
COPENHAGEN	08	13	50 Clear
FRANKFURT	04	18	60 Clear
GENEVA	09	17	63 Clear
HONG KONG	21	27	81 Clear
ISTANBUL	05	11	51 Clear
LONDON	12	15	53 Rain
LOS ANGELES	12	28	92 Clear
MADRID	08	16	61 Rain
MEXICO	19	24	65 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	08	50 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	07	45 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	16	21	60 Clear
NEW YORK	05	08	47 Rain
PARIS	05	13	55 Cloudy
ROME	05	11	52 Clear
SYDNEY	14	18	56 Clear
TOKYO	12	19	66 Cloudy
VIENNA	07	16	61 Clear

M - indicates missing information.